

to perfect herself professionally when trained and untrained are treated alike?"

Dealing with the question of character, and the assertion of the opposition that character and general suitability would be lost sight of were Registration adopted, the writer remarks:—

"It seems difficult to realise why this should be anticipated. Candidates for registration will have to be recommended for registration by heads of training-schools. Why suppose that they will recommend 'bad' or even 'indifferent' nurses, or those unfitted by character and temperament for registration, more than they now recommend such nurses for certification? The public anyway would be better off than they now are, as they would be sure at least of technical skill, which they are not at present."

The paper concludes with the following sentence:—

"In view of the present state of chaotic disorganisation of the profession, I cannot help feeling that Registration would be of the greatest possible assistance. I trust that those who occupy responsible positions in the nursing world will, instead of adopting a *non-possumus* attitude to every suggestion made for organisation, formulate a scheme themselves to meet the undoubted needs of the public."

MISS ISLA STEWART'S PAPER.

Miss Stewart is well known to nurses as a Matron who holds herself first a nurse, who considers her own interests identical with those of the rank and file, and whose pen is always at the service of her profession, when their interests need explanation or defence. The chief points made by her are that State Registration of Nurses is an act of justice to fully-trained women, and a means in some degree of mitigating the evils which most undoubtedly do exist.

In discussing the amount of training which a woman should receive before she is justified in calling herself a trained nurse, Miss Stewart is careful to lay down as the first essential three years' work in hospital wards.

"No ability, no quickness of intellect, will compensate for the lack of experience gained by daily contact with patients for so long a period. It teaches her much that is invaluable, apart from the technical part of her work. By constant practice comes a deftness and gentleness of hand, a methodical orderliness, and subordination of herself and her interests to her duty."

Dealing with the technical knowledge which Miss Lückes asserts is the "least important side of a nurse's qualification," Miss Stewart points out that it is for her technical skill that a nurse is employed, and not for her sympathetic powers.

"Technical skill alone will make a nurse, but when combined with sympathy, and the charm of gracious manners, it makes the great nurse."

And, again:—

"The untrained stupid woman, who cannot pass examinations, is not always kindly—indeed, she is much less likely to be so than her highly-trained, well-disciplined sister."

Miss Stewart then points out that, in advocating State Registration for Nurses, we are not breaking new ground or even asking for a doubtful boon; it has been tried in other countries, and its success is assured; that in Great Britain the demand for it comes from all three kingdoms; and, lastly, that "its object is not to hinder the employment of any nurse—there is ample room for the work of all grades—it is merely to draw a distinct line between the fully-trained skilled nurse and the unskilled woman."

In reporting the election of Miss A. M. Damprey to membership of the S.R.S. in our issue of May 21st, Stockport Infirmary instead of Southport Infirmary was notified as her training-school.

Miss E. M. Roberts, 54, Queen's Road, Wimbledon, Surrey, has consented to undertake the work connected with organising the Associates' branch of the S.R.S., so that local Hon. Secretaries and others wishing for information on this section should apply to her. Miss Roberts will keep a list and give receipts for subscriptions. We hope many of those who really value a good nurse, and desire a guarantee from the training-schools and nursing societies that the nurses supplied are efficient, will come forward and help the nurses to place their profession on a sound educational and industrial basis. It is greatly to the benefit of the public that they should have such a guarantee. The State protects them from quack doctors; why not from quack nurses?

MARYLAND NURSES' BILL.

The Maryland Bill providing for Registration of Nurses, says the *Maryland Medical Magazine*, encountered no material opposition at Annapolis, and promptly became a law. The movers of this legislation are to be congratulated not only upon their success, but upon the timeliness of their effort. If the need of such legislation had been very urgent, the opposition would have been just so much stronger. Our American methods of law-making usually permit abuses to become gross and powerful before undertaking their correction. Other States have discovered that the training-school for nurses may be about as nefarious as any other means of exploiting the public. The population of Maryland will probably yield as many and as inefficient nurses as any other equal population, and the substantial attractions of the training business are already beginning to be realised. The Registration law will not of itself oppose any obstacle to the multiplication of training-schools, but it will create a body of influential women whose certification will be something more satisfactory than that of a good training-school, and who may make a firm stand against the further degradation of their honourable calling.

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