

by which it seems to me our present methods may be improved and developed, may be steadied and strengthened. If we call what we are doing educating nurses, let us really educate; let us make our professional training as liberal as possible, and not merely technical. Let us do this for the honour and dignity and usefulness of our profession, and for the furtherance of any service which the community has a right to expect from us.

I would urge forward every effort to give better and better teaching in our training-schools, and every attempt to test our competency for our profession.

The Discussion will appear in our next issue.

### Progress of State Registration in the United States.

The Governor of Maryland has appointed the following members of the State Society of Nurses to form the State Board of Examining Nurses for Registration:—

Miss Anna Rutherford and Miss Elsie M. Lawler, Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses.

Miss Mary C. Packard, Massachusetts General Hospital School for Nurses.

Miss Emma Daly and Miss Agnes Marpin, the Maryland University School for Nurses.

With these appointments the final provisions to render the law for the Registration of Nurses operative have been met, and all that now remains is to set the machinery in motion.

The Board of Examiners have before them an arduous task, and should have the assistance and support to the fullest degree of all who are interested in the maintenance of good training-schools with proper standards of education for nurses.

### A Gold Medal for Merit.

The custom of awarding gold and silver medals to nurses for meritorious work during the probationary period, and for the first place in the final examination, is becoming more and more popular, so we must conclude that the example of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which has awarded a gold medal to the best nurse of her class for the past twenty years, was a good one, although adversely criticised by the "know alls" when first instituted.

Huddersfield Infirmary is the latest hospital to encourage its nurses by the bestowal of a gold medal, and a most interesting ceremony recently took place, when Nurse Wright was decorated by Mrs. Sandford, wife of the Vicar of Huddersfield, who pinned the much-coveted medal into her apron, and in so doing testified to the esteem in which she was held by her fellow nurses, and wished her happiness and success in the noble profession of nursing in which she had won so distinguished and honourable a place.

### Select Committee on Nursing.

The first meeting of the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the expediency of the Registration of Nurses was held on Tuesday, the 5th inst., at twelve o'clock. Mr. H. J. Tennant was elected Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. F. R. Williams-Wynn was appointed as the Secretary. The Committee settled its procedure and other matters, and then adjourned.

The second meeting of the Committee was held on Thursday, July 7th, at twelve o'clock, in Committee Room, No. 17. There were present Mr. Tennant, in the chair, Sir John Batty Tuke, Mr. Pierpont, Mr. Mount, Viscount Morpeth, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Henderson, Dr. Ambrose, and Major Bagot.

The first witness called was Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who, in reply to questions from the Chairman and the other members, stated that he had been working at the question of the Registration of Nurses continuously for the last seventeen years. He prefaced his evidence by saying that he would deliberately understate the gravity of the scandals which at present exist in the nursing world, because he has always deprecated for various reasons any attempt to exaggerate them; and, in the next place, that the reasons why the movement for nursing reform in this country has occupied so many years were that the whole subject was entirely novel, and was so fraught with difficulties that those who had been conducting the reform campaign deprecated any undue haste which might perhaps lead to hasty and ill-considered legislation. They had been content, in fact, to take years for the most careful investigation and consideration of all the problems involved, so that a practical scheme of reform could be quietly worked out in full detail. But he also pointed out that considerable delay had been due to the fact that nursing reforms in this country, even in the direction of obtaining organisation amongst nurses, and still more in obtaining a public inquiry into the whole question, had been most bitterly opposed. He showed that until about forty years ago there was practically no nursing education of any sort in this country, and practically no trained nurses; that since the Crimean War better-educated women had in constantly increasing numbers undertaken nursing as a career; and that, whilst this had greatly improved the status and work of nurses, it had led, on the one side, to a continually increasing demand for their services from medical men and the public, and, on the other, to constant improvements being made in the larger hospitals in the education and training given to the probationers, whilst the hard manual labour which had formerly been done by the nurses had devolved upon ward maids. He showed that one result of this movement had been that large numbers of inefficiently-trained or altogether untrained persons now undertake the comparatively well-paid work of nurses for the sick, and that well-trained nurses and medical men have for years demanded that there should be some method adopted to obtain uniformity in the education, examination, and certification of trained nurses, and to exercise professional control and discipline over them when they have been fully trained.

In reply to other questions, Dr. Fenwick explained that what was wanted at first was an Act which, as the preamble to the first Medical Act stated, would "enable the public to distinguish qualified from un-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)