

mistake not, of vocal expression in still others. These, however, do not apparently in any school exclude or affect those subjects of real, fundamental importance, except by the indirect way of taking time and energy for the handling of one subject which might with greater profit at the particular stage be devoted to others. Where the most striking diversity is found is in the allotment of time which is given to the same subject by different schools. Why, for instance, anatomy and physiology should take up four hours a week for one year in one school, five hours a week for four months in another, seven hours a week for ten weeks in another, two hours a week for ten weeks elsewhere, and finally be completed as a subject in a series of ten classes is beyond ordinary comprehension. There must be some right number of hours each week, covering a certain definite period of time, in which such a knowledge of anatomy and physiology as is needed in a nurse's education can be obtained. It may be that a course of 128 classes is too long and that of ten classes too short, but it ought not to be beyond the limits of our wisdom to reach some conclusion in regard to this subject which could be accepted by all good schools as suitable and sufficient.

What has been said of the teaching of anatomy and physiology is true of most other topics so far as the question of time allotment is concerned. This has its bearing upon our subject in that a course is not truly preparatory unless it takes the pupil in one stage, and definitely and by certain processes prepares her for that which is to follow. There can be no just way of determining what the total length of the full preparatory course should be until we can have some clear ideas as to the proper length of time to devote to each of the particular studies which must be included in such a course.

The foregoing sums up in a general way the conditions under which the preliminary education of nurses has been established in or in connection with the training-schools of this country. It is seen that in one form or another it has been adopted in a good many schools. It is under consideration by many others. In New York State it is recommended by the Board of Regents, in defining standards, as a most desirable development in nurses' education. At this moment movements are on foot in the South to establish such a course in a State Normal and Industrial College, and in the West, in the University of California. In nearly all quarters the plan is looked upon with favour. As an idea it is attractive; it makes an almost unanswerable appeal to reason.

(To be continued).

The Select Committee on Nursing will meet again to take evidence after the Whitsuntide Recess on Tuesday next, June 27th. The witnesses expected to give evidence are Professor White, Dr. Shuttleworth, and a witness from the Scottish Local Government Board.

## Progress of State Registration.

The nurses of the State of Illinois have secured the passage of their Registration Bill. We offer them our hearty congratulations. The importance of this new victory will be appreciated on reference to the letter from Miss L. L. Dock which we print in another column.

## Royal South Hants Nurses' League.

A meeting of the General Council of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League was held at the Royal South Hants Hospital on Saturday, June 10th, at 3 p.m.

Miss Gordon was elected Hon. Treasurer and Miss Rae Hon. Secretary, in place of Miss Haldane and Miss Lee Smith.

Letters of regret for non-attendance from various members were read, and a resolution passed at the last Executive Committee to have only one journal this year was not confirmed.

The President gave a short address on the present state of "Nursing Politics," and it was agreed to approach the Secretary of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses with a view to joining that body.

A pleasant tea in the new Nurses' Home closed the proceedings.

## Our Five Guinea Prize.

With the exception of the *American Journal of Nursing*, the nursing papers are singularly devoid of good articles on Practical Nursing, and as such articles are of the utmost value to nurses to keep them in touch with the progress of their work, we offered a prize of Five Guineas for the best article on some practical nursing subject, with illustrations, of which photographs were to be enclosed.

With what result? Practically none. Two papers only have been received, one on "The Evolution of the Trained Nurse," which is an ethical, not a practical nursing subject, and a second an excellent article on "The Clinical Thermometer," which does not, however, comply with the provisions of the competition, as it deals chiefly with the mechanism of the instrument, and not with its practical application in relation to temperature.

It must be owned that this result is very disappointing, and as we cannot believe that the present system of training is merely theoretical, and that the value of practical nursing is so little appreciated by nurses that it cannot be clearly put forth in writing, we propose next week to give some Practical Nursing subjects, and offer a Prize of £5 the best illustrated article dealing with any subjects.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)