

Infirmery, Edinburgh, and of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, has written a book called "A Study in Nursing," which will be published shortly. Many nurses will be interested in reading what this lady has to say; it will be remembered that Miss Pringle left St. Thomas's when she joined the Church of Rome—a decided loss to our profession, as she was a woman of great sweetness of character.

Well do we remember our first interview with Miss Pringle, now some twenty years ago. We called upon her at the Edinburgh Infirmery, wishing to see over that great institution, and after waiting a considerable time in an outer office, were shown into her presence. She was under the impression we desired admission as a probationer, and well do we remember her bright laughter when she realised that her visitor was Matron of "Bart's." Nothing could exceed her courtesy and kindness, and we left the infirmery almost regretting the time of probation was not to come and to be spent under her gentle supervision.

We learn from Dr. Anna Hamilton, of Bordeaux, that in the training-school of the Maison de Santé Protestante, Roman Catholic probationers are admitted, it was stated by a correspondent to this Journal that they were not, and several have already been trained, or are now undergoing their training. It is only the scholarships which are restricted to Protestant probationers, as these have been given by Protestant subscribers. The Protestant and Roman Catholic nurses work amicably side by side.

The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association is beginning to find that there is a diffidence on the part of the nurse members in speaking at their general meetings, at which so many eminent medical men preside and take part, and there is a feeling that meetings of nurses only would greatly diminish, if not remove, the sense of constraint which impels nurses to silence. Such meetings are therefore being arranged. We have had ample proof in this country of the silence of nurses at meetings of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at which, in latter years the platform has been largely occupied by medical members. With one or two exceptions the nurse members never open their lips.

### The Registered Nurses' Society.

The Registered Nurses' Society will this winter have a monthly "At Home" for their friends at their pretty offices in Oxford Street, beginning on the afternoon of Saturday, November 11th. Such gatherings have been held and much enjoyed by the members of the Nurses' Co-operation for many years past. Private nurses find it very difficult to get to know their colleagues, and anything which encourages kindness and *camaraderie* amongst workers is all to the good.

### The Matrons' Council.

Miss Isla Stewart's Paper, "The Twentieth Century Matron," will be read before the Matrons' Council on November 2nd, and will no doubt attract an interested audience. Miss Mollett, who can champion the county Matrons as they deserve, will open the discussion. It is a subject fraught with great possibilities, and should arouse a spirited debate.

Other conferences will be held during the winter, and it is probable that Miss Dock, as an hon. member of the Council, will contribute a paper on a question of great importance to nurses from an ethical standpoint.

### State Registration in South Africa.

State Registration of Nurses is receiving much attention in medical circles in South Africa, and is discussed both in the medical and lay press. Different standards for registration are in force in Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal, and in the Orange River Colony, and the Medical Councils of these States are faced with the difficulty of dealing not only with reciprocity in South Africa, but with the registration of nurses from the United Kingdom and abroad.

The Transvaal has taken membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association as "a guarantee of efficiency" for registration, and an attempt is being made to have the other colonies follow suit.

The fact is that the R.B.N.A. can give no "guarantee of efficiency" as at present organised, as it merely accepts as members nurses who have passed through the training in a hospital or infirmery with not less than forty beds, of the *quality* of which training it knows nothing, and it is most unfair to colonial nurses, who are compelled to complete a specified curriculum, and pass a central examination, to have nurses put on their Register who may not have done either the one or the other.

Until such time as State Registration is an accomplished fact in the United Kingdom, all nurses emigrating to the colonies where an educational standard is in force, and desirous of availing themselves of the privileges of registration and working in such colonies, should be required to attain to it, and give proof by examination to the Colonial Councils that they are efficient in the theory and practice of nursing. The Colonial Medical Councils owe this measure of justice to their own nurses, and we feel sure that if the nurses had representation on their Registration Boards in South Africa, they would insist upon this test.

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