

work. On all sides there are springing up illicit agencies by which nurses are supplied to the public as a commercial speculation, professional efficiency being a very secondary consideration. Such nurses are to a great extent put on the market through the publicity given to these agencies in the advertisement columns of the lay nursing press. Another undesirable feature in connection with this branch is the increase of private nurses sent out by charitable institutions. The competition of these institutions with the private nurses working in co-operations, or on their own account, is most unfair. It is unfair also to the nurses connected with the institutions to utilise their skilled work as a means of revenue. After three or four years' faithful work, while training, such reasonable fees as the public can afford to pay should belong to the nurses themselves, less the small percentage necessary for carrying on their business, during their short working life they have to make provision for their old age.

DISTRICT NURSING.

The retirement of Miss Pauline Peter, General Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and the appointment of Miss Amy Hughes as her successor, marks an epoch in the history of the Institute. Both the outgoing and the present Superintendent are in cordial sympathy with the Registration movement.

The public statement of the President of the Institute, the Rev. A. L. B. Peile, that in regard to Registration Queen's Nurses will be left perfectly free to use their own judgment, is a declaration of importance which might well be endorsed by the Committees of all Training-Schools. By recognising the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute and two other District Nursing Institutions as eligible for grants, the Hospital Sunday Fund has recognised the national importance of the work of district nurses.

THE ASYLUM WORLD.

In relation to the Asylum World, we must note the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nursing that a separate Register of "Registered Asylum Nurses" should be maintained by the Central Nursing Board. This recommendation finds general acceptance, both in the Asylum and the Hospital World.

A strong effort is being made by the Asylum Workers' Association to obtain old age pensions for asylum attendants, a provision which we regard as right and just, and a national duty.

MASSAGE.

The Masseuses are to be congratulated upon their progress in organisation, and the results

achieved by their professional society during the past year. They afford a practical illustration of the good management maintained, and consequently of the good work effected, when professional women workers control their own affairs. The Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses has now been selected as the Examining Body for the orderlies of the Military Nursing Service, an honour which has necessitated a slight alteration in its Articles of Association.

THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

The term of two years' grace during which Midwives holding certificates recognised by the Central Midwives Board, as well as women in *bonâ-fide* practice, could claim admission to the Roll expired on March 31st of the present year.

The issue of the Midwives' Roll for 1905, published by the authority of the Board, contains the completed list of admissions to the Roll under Section 2 of the Act. The midwives so enrolled are upwards of 22,300 in number. The large proportion of those enrolled during the period of grace are either midwives holding the certificate of the Obstetrical Society of London, 7,465 in number, or women in *bonâ fide* in July, 1901, 12,521. Then there is a big drop in the qualifications on which midwives are enrolled, varying from the 427 enrolled on the certificate of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, to seven whose names are placed on the Roll by virtue of their holding the certificate of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Henceforth, as is right, there will be but one portal of admission—through the Examination established by the Central Midwives' Board.

The composition of the Board as set out on the first page shows clearly what has always been its weakness that no one member of the Board has a seat as the direct representative of the midwives themselves, and only one Midwife (Miss Rosalind Paget) has a seat upon it. The Roll contains lists of approved training-schools and teachers, of examiners, of the scheme for examinations as approved by the Privy Council, the text of the Midwives' Act, and the Rules governing the proceedings of the Board, as well as the midwives themselves.

The size of the volume, which is not half as large as the *Nursing Register* will be, gives some idea of the work before trained nurses in establishing their Register, and proves the enormous amount of work which has been done, and which could not possibly have been accomplished unless a large amount of time had been devoted by members to the business of the Board.

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