

with one or two exceptions, of persons of no status in the nursing profession, and we should advise trained nurses to obtain a list of the Matrons on the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. who propose to arrogate to themselves the power to grant or withdraw a diploma of nursing from women holding far higher professional qualifications than those they themselves possess. Far better save these guineas towards paying for the State Diploma and Registration, by which Parliament will at no distant date crown our efforts for Nursing Organisation.

On several occasions, questions of the utmost interest to nurses working under the Poor-law have been discussed and settled by various bodies, notably the Local Government Board, the Privy Council, to say nothing of the Council of the Poor-Law Unions' Association, without nurses being in any way consulted and usually contrary to the general well-being of nursing.

Some months ago we expressed the opinion in this journal that it would be well for the Matrons of Poor-law Infirmaries to co-operate so that they could discuss matters which affected their work, and we are informed that upon the initiative of Miss Barton, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, this has now been done. At a recent meeting it was decided to form an Association of Poor-law Infirmary Matrons, a constitution was drawn up, and it was decided to hold quarterly meetings to discuss questions of interest.

Working under the Poor-law brings nurses much into touch with social economic conditions, as they affect the very poor, and as good citizens they shirk their responsibilities if they do not study them, and do all in their power to help to remedy the sad condition of the people. We have no doubt the new Association will prove a practical factor for good, and wish it all success.

On Friday last, Miss Pine and Miss Townend received their friends at the new Nursing Home which they have just opened in Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill, and very charming it all looked. The rooms have unusually high pitched ceilings, large windows, and are all large, light, and airy, decorated with taste, and very practically furnished. The Tube station is quite close, so that Pembridge Gardens is thus brought comparatively near to the medical quarter, and as there is a nice open space at the back, and no heavy traffic in the front, it should be quite worth while to recommend the

new Home to invalids, who now suffer so intensely from the pandemonium created by our uncontrolled motor traffic in the Cavendish Square centre. Both ladies have unusually good nursing experience, Miss Townend having, in addition to general work, a thorough knowledge of various special branches gained at the Hospital for Sick Children, and the Royal Ear Hospital.

Miss Charlotte A. Aikens, whose literary work in various American hospital magazines is of a very high order, had recently an admirable article in *The Canadian Nurse* on "The Head Nurse—Ward Housekeeping and General Management." Would that there was space in this Journal to quote the whole, but we hope this excellent magazine now finds its way into quite a number of English Training Schools, so a few paragraphs may suffice.

"In the general management of a large ward or a section of a hospital, a head nurse will find ample opportunity for the exercise of both technical and executive ability. The nurse whose professional education has been built on the solid foundation of a thorough practical knowledge of housekeeping is, as a rule, better fitted to fill such a position than the woman without practical domestic experience."

A good bit of such teaching should be mothers' work. But, in addition to that, a very important part of the training of Sisters should be acquired in a course of domestic economy in so far as it relates to ward management. Much could be systematically taught in the Nurses' Home.

Continuing, Miss Aikens touches a weak spot in the management of many Sisters:

"One of the most common errors to which head nurses are liable, is the doing of the actual duties that ought to be performed by the pupils, thus allowing them to depend on her to supplement their efforts, instead of supervising and teaching. This is one of the chief reasons for failure with some head nurses. Instead of using their brains to plan and systematise the work, and teach, they dabble in, perhaps, every duty the nurses have to do. If the nurse did not get round in time to dust the ward, they dusted it, they cleaned cupboards, made beds, wrote up records, did whatever they saw to be done, and very soon the nurses learned that certain things might be left every day, and the head nurse would attend to them. In many cases it would certainly be easier to do the things than to take

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)