

value on account of the resulting knowledge of the home life of the poor, and the same may be said of special experience of fever work; and an additional qualification will be the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, given in the special department of school work. Such a certificate is not at the present time an essential.

The work of School Medical Inspection is still in its infancy, and as in all other branches of Public Health and Preventive Medicine work, there are indications of a vigorous growth, and for any nurse whose work is intelligently and carefully carried out, the prospects are good. I have referred to the characteristics of tact and patience, and the knowledge of human nature which will make a nurse more admirably fitted for the work. But there is one fundamental thing, from the possession of which all the others will almost necessarily follow, and that is the love of children, with an earnest desire to lighten the burden of those who are ailing. There is no royal road to success in your profession, but if you have these things in your heart you need have no fear of failure in your work, and you will take your place with success among them that labour patiently for the betterment of the nation's health.

Honours for British Nurses.

An interesting ceremony took place at the Naval Hospital, Gibraltar, last week, when Admiral Berryer visited the hospital, and, on behalf of the French Government, presented medals and other tokens of gratitude to the nursing Sisters and members of the sick berth staff who attended the seamen injured in the explosion on board the French cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc* in February last.

The recipients were:—Miss Whittington, gold medal; Miss Glasspole, silver medal; sick berth stewards Ames and Beale, 100 fr. each and a testimonial. Miss Gratton, who was to have received a silver medal, is now in England. The Governor and a large gathering of naval officers were present at the ceremony. Admiral Berryer, who was received by a guard of honour of Marines and Bluejackets, stated in a short speech, as reported by Reuter, that he presented the medals and testimonials on behalf of the French Government in recognition of the care and attention bestowed upon the victims of the accident.

Deputy Inspector-General James, in reply, warmly thanked the Admiral for the honour conferred upon the officers and staff of the hospital, and stated that the thanks of his Majesty's service would be conveyed to the French Government.

Registration of Nurses and the Present Bill.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY NURSES.

II.

MY DEAR NURSE,—In the former letter you will remember that I very briefly explained how the State Registration of Nurses would affect you, an infirmity-trained nurse, professionally, but beyond the general principles of the measure, little or nothing was said about the Bill at present promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and which has, thanks to the generalship of Lord Amptill, been read a second time in the House of Lords, and considered by that House in Committee. As a nurse who will be vitally affected in your professional life by the Bill, should it become law, you surely ought to be acquainted with the details of its working, and as I understood you the other day to say that you had not seen it, I thought perhaps a short summary of its provisions might be of some service when discussing the subject, as I hope you will, with your fellow nurses.

The title of the Bill is the best definition of its scope, viz., "to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses, and to provide for their registration." In order that this may be done efficiently the Bill proposes to create a Body to be known as "the General Council of Nursing Education and Registration of the United Kingdom," whose duty it shall be to see that a register of trained nurses is properly kept and published annually, the register to contain the names, addresses, and qualifications of nurses certified under the Act, to issue rules regulating the training of nurses and their admission to the register, and also the admission of nurses practising as such when the Act comes into force, to appoint examiners and generally organise examinations, to issue and cancel certificates, and to "regulate, supervise, and restrict within due limits the practice of registered nurses," that is, to set up, define, and maintain a standard of "professional conduct" for registered nurses in much the same way as the General Medical Council does for the medical profession.

The Council also are to have power either to suspend from practice or to remove altogether from the Register any nurse guilty of a breach of their rules, or of "conduct disgraceful in a professional sense," they may also restore the name of any nurse so removed if they think fit to do so.

As the Act stands at present, a period of three years from the date when it comes into force is allowed during which time any person

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