

which we reprint this week, to show Nurses the sentiments expressed by the medical papers about their Association. Our interesting contemporary, the *Hospital Gazette*, has the following shrewd annotation on the subject, though I do not know where it has derived its knowledge about a "certain standard examination." I find nothing in the bye-laws or the published resolutions of the General Council upon this point, and imagine that this is a question which has still to be decided.

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"THE Nurses are coming to the fore now that they are trained in sufficient numbers to constitute an important ilk. Like every other sensible body of people having common interests to protect, they have united together to form a society for the purpose. Its name is the 'British Nurses' Association,' and the list of vice-presidents includes eighteen titled Medical men. One of the chief objects at present seems to be to secure the Registration of Nurses by some central authority. The committee hope to secure a Royal Charter for the Association, which will grant a certificate of proficiency after the candidate has passed a certain standard examination, and gone through a definite course of training. It is beyond a doubt desirable that both the public and Medical men should have some means of distinguishing between qualified Nursing and quackery. So many women who have gone for a few months to a Hospital, and either broken down in health or proved otherwise unfit, put on the clothes of a Hospital Nurse and give themselves out as duly trained. Of course a little investigation would soon settle the value of such claims, but life is too short and time too fleeting to allow much of that kind of work. At any rate it would be simpler to ask the question of a Nurse, 'Are you certificated?' and then to look out her name in the *Nurses' Register* that would be sure to follow close on the heels of the movement."

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THE following account from the columns of our influential Transatlantic contemporary, the *New York Medical Record*, supplies a useful lesson to Nurses, and a still more useful hint in case of such an accident occurring: "The patient, a German, who understood but little English, was admitted to the Hospital for a fever, not yet diagnosed. As soon as he was seated by his bedside, I introduced the thermometer into his mouth, enjoining him at the same time not to bite or swallow it. Standing in front of my patient, I saw the thermometer disappear in his mouth, while at the same time a motion, as of deglutition, was performed by the man. When I recovered from the shock such a sight gave me, I requested my patient to open

his mouth. Sure enough the instrument was there no longer, and when I asked the man in German what he had done with the thermometer, he answered that he had understood me to say that he should swallow it, and, of course, he had obeyed orders. I snatched a blanket from the bed and spread it on the floor; then making the man lie flat on his stomach on the bed, with the head hanging down over the edge of it, I told him that, unless he wished to die, he should introduce his fingers as far down the throat as possible, and make one supreme effort to vomit. This was quickly and efficiently done, for, in less time than it takes me to relate it, the thermometer was regurgitated, and fell safe and sound on the blanket. I took the precaution of tying a thread to my instrument whenever afterward it became necessary to take the temperature of this or any other such bright-minded patient."

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MR. EDITOR asks me to announce that the success of this Journal has been so great, that our staff of contributors is about to be reinforced by some well-known writers, and that in, and after, our next number, several new departures will be made, each of which will, it is believed, be much appreciated by our readers. Amongst others, we shall give each week a complete list of the Nursing vacancies advertised in the professional and lay press in London; and, as Nurses already are finding out, this journal offers to Nurses unrivalled opportunities at unequalled rates, of attracting the attention of the heads of large Hospitals to their wishes for employment. S. G.

### HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

REPORTS OF INSTITUTIONS, ETC., COMMUNICATED AND COLLECTED.

DURING the present year, at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., it has been found absolutely necessary to increase the accommodation for the Nursing staff, and this has entailed a considerable addition to the ordinary expenses of the year, besides involving an increased annual charge for maintenance. The liabilities thus incurred by the Committee have been cheerfully undertaken, in the full conviction that it is only necessary to make known the needs of the Charity, to ensure sufficient pecuniary support to enable them to carry on the work of the Hospital with efficiency and success.

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PROVINCIAL SUNDAY AND SATURDAY HOSPITAL COLLECTIONS.—The Wolverhampton Hospital Sunday collections this year have amounted to

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