

position, or connection with each other. The Matron of St. Bartholomew's has done a great service in calling attention to the necessity for a speedy decision upon so vital a matter; and it is probable that all who understand the importance of the question, will consider it their duty to avail themselves of the opportunity of influencing professional opinion on the subject by expressing their own views as based upon practical experience of the training of Nurses. But it has been very pertinently remarked by more than one correspondent that some Matrons may object, on personal grounds, to their names appearing in print, and that at some Hospitals the Committees of management might not approve of their Matron taking any open part in her official capacity in such a discussion in a public journal, that is to say, signing her name and appending her Hospital position to the expression of her opinion. We incline to believe that there are comparatively few Committees which would raise such an objection; but, in any case in which our correspondents would prefer to express their views anonymously, their assistance and advice in this important matter would be equally welcomed.

In other professions, by means of Congresses or Meetings of Societies, the judgment of their members on the burning questions of the day can be easily elicited; but, in Nursing, there is, practically, no other means of doing this except through the public press. The Royal British Nurses' Association has, of course, done much in this direction; but in the solution of a question closely affecting the management of Nurse Training Schools it would, perhaps, decline to take any prominent part. We would, therefore, appeal to Hospital Matrons throughout the United Kingdom, as the persons best fitted to form and express an opinion on the matter, to take part in the forthcoming discussion in these columns, upon the term of Hospital training which is necessary for a Nurse to undergo, and upon the best methods of so arranging that education that, at its termination, there should be a reasonable belief that the pupil who had passed through it had been "thoroughly-trained." So far as the first question is concerned, should two or three years be considered the necessary length of training? It is almost needless to point out that at the majority the large schools the three years' standard is now in force; that the Royal British Nurses' Association requires that term from candidates for Registration; and that the Select Committee of the House of Lords considered it essential. But how the time of pupilage can be best utilised, what subjects are to be taught, and what arrangement of work should be made for each year of study, are questions of the highest importance, and upon which there will, doubtless, be great and, at the same time, very useful diversity of opinion amongst our readers.

ADVERTISING NURSES.

NURSES, as members of a profession which is still young—which is still in process of early development—and which, hitherto, has been subject to no guiding rules or code of ethics, have not comprehended the harmfulness of advertising themselves in the lay press. Indeed, we believe that the matter has not been previously referred to in this journal; but we feel compelled to do so now in view of the growing tendency to advertisement, which is being exhibited in various quarters, and which brings discredit, not only upon the advertiser, but also upon the whole profession. Recently, in one day, we observed huge placards in London streets, one of which announced—"A Hospital Nurses' Testimony" to the efficacy of some quack medicine. Another was a gigantic poster referring to a Shoe invented by, let us say, Sister Sarah; and the third was a somewhat lengthy and sensational description of how a certain Nurse advised a certain lady to feed upon, what we will call, Parr's Purifying Pills. It is impossible that any trained Nurse could conscientiously recommend patent medicines as able to cure every complaint under the sun. Consequently, anyone who gave such advice must be devoid of self-respect, and it is to be hoped that she is not aware of the discredit which such proceedings bring, not only upon herself, but also upon her profession.

THE NURSING OF AN INFECTIOUS LUNATIC.

A correspondent asks us "What is to be done with an Infectious Lunatic?" and narrates a tale of woe, to which we draw attention, because, so far as we are aware, the difficulty is new and certainly uncommon. A lunatic patient in a Poor Law Infirmary was wrong-headed enough to develop an unmistakable small-pox rash, and the question immediately arose as to what should be done with her. She could not be left amongst her insane friends, nor could she be moved to an ordinary ward, for fear of conveying the infection in either case to others. It was found impossible to move her to the Small-pox Hospital because, the authorities there, courteously but firmly declined to take a dangerous lunatic on their hands. It would perhaps have been a violation of the law to open the doors and let a lunatic go free, and it certainly would have been detrimental to the public to have set a small-pox lunatic loose on the streets. So, after much cogitation, a special isolation room was prepared for this doubly dangerous patient, and then there arose a fresh difficulty. The ordinary attendant not only felt a natural reluctance to be isolated with a case of small-pox, but she was quite incapable of nursing it, and a fever Nurse, who was obtained, explained that she had no experience of mental cases, and could not undertake to restrain this patient. Furthermore, it was evident that she required attention and attendance both by night and day; and we understand that the difficulty was finally settled by an attendant and a Nurse being placed in charge of her during the day, and similar care being provided for the night. Altogether, this particular pauper must have proved most expensive to the ratepayers, while illustrating a novel difficulty in our complex modern civilization. Perhaps the best thing in future would be to vaccinate all lunatics, and so minimise the chance of a similar *contretemps* elsewhere.

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