

allowed to minister to the needs of the sick through the weary night hours. He felt sure that the Nurses must have gained much from the lectures, and that those who had profited by them, would be definitely more fitted to carry out the orders of the medical men. In conclusion, he thanked the medical officers who had given up so much of their valuable time simply for the pleasure of helping the Nurses to understand their work. The prizes and certificates were then given. Two first and three second-class certificates were awarded for success in hygiene; ten first and six second-class for anatomy. The five prizes were books connected with their work.

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THE *Birmingham Daily Post* says:—

"The latest development of the work of the Church Army is the establishment of a training home for Mission Nurses. Large premises have been acquired, facing the headquarters of the "Army," in Edgware Road, where young women undergo a course of instruction in nursing and mission work. Already several efficient Nurses have been sent to various parts of the country for parish work, and great satisfaction has attended their efforts. They are expected to assist in the houses they attend, not only in nursing the sick, but by helping in the general domestic work. Applications for these Nurses are being received from the clergy in most of the large provincial districts as well as metropolitan parishes. The Institution is shortly to be opened by the Duchess of Sutherland, who is taking a keen interest in this new work, which is not likely to interfere with that of the independent trained Nurses."

Doubtless, excellent work will be done by these good women, but it is high time that the term "Nurse" was defined and, to some extent, protected. These parish workers might well adopt some title which would define their labours in a true sense.

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THE *British Medical Journal*, in last week's issue, makes the following sensible remarks:—

"The steady enlargement of the army of inspectors by whose activity obedience to factory, workshop, and sanitary law is to be enforced makes us anxious as to the field from which the recruits for this most important service are to be drawn. Both under the Factory and the Sanitary Acts women are being appointed as inspectors, and in both cases, but especially in the latter, a Nurse's training and experience would be of the greatest value. It is to be feared that a sanitary inspector is generally looked on by the poor as a mere smeller of drains, and, in fact, it is often difficult for him to be anything else. But a clever woman with a knowledge of sickness and a Nurse's tact could be something much more than that, and might readily become a teacher of what is good as well as a reporter of what is bad. In nine cases out of ten the husband is out at work when the inspector calls, and it is with the wife the latter has to deal. Inquiries have to be made and investigations entered on which in a man appear as gross impertinence, while in a woman they may take the form of sympathetic confidences; and when one remembers how often the sickness of the children becomes the index of the insanitary condition of the house, one sees at once what a pull a kindly Nurse would have in such investigations. The St. Helens Health Committee last week decided to appoint a woman as a sanitary inspector; we hope they will select one who has had a Nurse's training."

Matrons in Council.



MADAM,—In response to the admirable suggestions in your current number, thrown out by Miss Stewart on the training of Nurses, I venture, with some degree of diffidence, to offer a few remarks.

The term "trained Nurse" is at the present time somewhat ambiguous, as all women who hold a certificate, whether of one, two, or three years, claim an equal right to the title. To obviate the confusion which must inevitably result from such a condition of things, a necessity for the establishment of a recognised standard of qualification and length of training arises. The establishment of a central Board, made up of representatives from the principal Nurse Training Schools with power to examine and certificate after three or more years' training, would do much to secure this result, besides not being open to the charge of partiality which all Institutions that examine and certificate their own Nurses are. The minimum period of training, as suggested by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, should not be less than three years, during the first part of which a Nurse receives instruction from the medical staff in elementary anatomy and physiology, supplemented by a course of practical lectures on Nursing from the Matron. It would be advisable to make these latter as comprehensive as possible; for instance, they should embrace such subjects as manner, deportment, general conduct—all very important matters in the training of a Nurse, and too often neglected altogether. The preliminary examination would be held on the conclusion of these lectures, and the final one on the completion of the three years' training. The question of fees opens a wider field for discussion, and with it must be considered the advisability of retaining two classes of Probationers, viz.—those who pay and those who do not. Now, women who intend to make Nursing their profession, should, I venture to think, receive a free training as an equivalent for their labour. There is very much hard work and drudgery inseparable from a Nurse's duties which must be done, that may very fairly be looked upon as *payment in kind*, for benefits in the shape of instruction *received*. If a premium were made compulsory, it would shut the door on many poor, but otherwise excellent and capable, women. On the other hand, there are many women in good circumstances who are very glad to devote their time to nursing and looking after the sick, but who have no wish to undertake the humbler, but equally necessary, duties of ward work; it is, therefore, only reasonable that they should pay in money for their experiences. After all, it is very much the same in the end—one class gives her labour, and the other her money in payment for the same privileges. Promotion should, in all cases, be dependent only upon worth, capability, and experience. There are one or two more points I should like to have touched upon, but I have already trespassed sufficiently on your valuable space,

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Registered Nurse, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary.

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