

MADAM,—No one could work for even the short time I have worked as Hospital Matron without feeling, not only the immense importance of the training of Probationers, but also the very great responsibility which attaches to the selection of fit persons for training. In the presence of Matrons of wider experience, I state my opinion with some diffidence. It seems to me we are not in a position to dictate what the maximum of preliminary education for a Nurse should be, but we would be much the better for having a fixed standard of what the minimum must be. While the Matron, only, can take the responsibility of judging of the probable reality of the applicant's vocation for Nursing, it would make them feel that they were applying for real work, and would at once eliminate a large number of "impossibles" who at present add to the Matron's work by useless correspondence, etc. I would suggest that the Examinations be (1) Practical and (2) Theoretical. Under the first I would examine into their manner of making a bed, sweeping a floor, dusting a room, cleaning a saucepan, and I would require them to be able to read Thermometers, understand weights and measures, and such things of daily use. All domestic work is of use in the preliminary education of a Nurse, and girls who in their home training have been taught the beauty of exactness in small things, are always the most hopeful of Probationers. In the theoretical part of the entrance exam., I would require a very elementary knowledge of Physiology and Anatomy. In the written answers, I would lay great value on tidy writing, correct spelling, and well arranged clear answers. To be quick at simple arithmetic is also most necessary. I have often been asked by those wishing to become Nurses, "What they had better read?" ; if there is "anything they can learn?" ; and I always tell them to learn the best and quickest way of doing all household matters: to dust, to make beds, to clean, to cook; that nothing will come amiss; and above all things to learn to *see*. They have told me later, what a hard saying they thought it, but that once in hospital they found such knowledge of the greatest help. The large training schools could easily arrange examinations; the difficulty would be in getting anything like a uniform standard applied to the smaller Provincial Hospitals. Perhaps, as I suggested in an article in THE RECORD of April 7th, 1892, local centres could be formed for both preliminary and final examinations, just as in art and sciences we have Oxford and Cambridge local examinations, and for the St. Andrew's L.L.A. degree. Your discussion on Paying versus Paid Probationers has, I know, ended, but may I add a word on that subject. One benefit of having, at any rate, some paying, or, at least, unpaid Probationers, is that they increase the staff. The element of hurry, which is so fatal to the finish of work, and thoroughness of training, is largely due to the number of Nurses being inadequate, and nothing is more difficult than to get the staff increased. The committee are apt to think any desire to do so is extravagance on the part of the Matron, but if she can show that there will be no extra hard cash required to pay additional Nurses, they are more ready to allow them.—I am, Madam, faithfully yours,
E. J. R. LANDALE.

Medical Matters.

CHARITY THINKETH NO EVIL.



Considerable amusement has been caused in medical circles by the pronouncements recently made by a right reverend Bishop against vivisection. Most people imagined that the falsehoods of the anti-vivisection campaign were sufficiently exposed last year, but there appears to be no end to episcopal credulity. The new critic appears to be as ignorant of scientific facts, or as indifferent to their meaning, as any other of his friends, and effectually holds himself up to ridicule in consequence. He insinuates that experiments upon the lower animals are undertaken for motives of curiosity, if not of sheer cruelty—a charge so preposterous that it only merits contempt. This reverend gentleman—whose profession has proved to him a profitable one—evidently despises men who spend their substance in, and devote their lives to, searching out the secrets of nature for the benefit of their fellow creatures. Such work is not only difficult, dangerous, and thankless, but exposes the worker to attacks from hysterical old women of both sexes. Still, truth is great and will prevail, although for the present the anti-vivisectionists have succeeding in banishing original investigation from these islands, and the country of HARVEY and HUNTER is now falling behind other lands, and must wait for the men of other races to make scientific discoveries in biology. The people of England have willed it so, and so it will be until the swing of the pendulum comes back from hysteria to common sense. Meanwhile, the puerile platitudes and insulting insinuations of this particular Bishop will not hinder the march of science; they only arouse ridicule and recoil in discredit on the Church, which possesses such representatives.

MORE INFIRMARIES.

There is clearly a new agitation in the air—more Workhouse Infirmaries are wanted. It is found that there are in many parishes more sick paupers than can be accommodated at the Poor Law Infirmaries, and they are, therefore, perforce treated in the wards of the workhouse. Here there is very deficient provision for their care, especially in the matter of Nursing, because in most of these Institutions the more able-bodied inmates act as the Nurses to their more helpless companions in misfortune. As this insufficiency of accommodation for, and insufficiency of attendance on, the sick, becomes more recognised, it is beyond doubt that a great extension of our present new Infirmaries will take

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FOR PASTRY & CAKES

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)