

The Hospital has, moreover, evinced its intention not to be behind any other, in the organization of its Nursing School, in another way. The second rule reads as follows: "The training fee for the three years is £35, payable in three instalments in advance, viz., £20 the first year, £10 the second, £5 the third. The fee for the third year will be returned when the Probationer's name is enrolled on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association." The importance of this new regulation can hardly be over-estimated, and as it, to our knowledge, merely foreshadows a step, which a number of other important Hospitals will, in due course, also take, it deserves very careful consideration. The premium for training is placed at £35, which, as board lodging and washing are provided for the pupil for three years, in addition to instruction in a skilled calling, cannot be termed an excessive payment, representing, finally, only 3s. 10d. a week. There is every probability that, in time, other Schools will make a higher charge than this, but, as in the case of University College Hospital, upon which we recently commented, the precise amount of the premium is a detail; the fact, that representative Hospitals are now adopting the suggestion, which we made some three years ago, and are making all their Probationers pay, is one of the highest significance.

But the Sussex County Hospital has, it will be observed, made another and most important new departure. It offers those of its Probationers, who become proficient, a gratuity of £5 upon their enrolment on the Register of the Chartered Corporation of Nurses; and, here, although we have reason to believe that other Institutions will speedily follow its example, it undoubtedly deserves the credit of initiating a new principle. A lay contemporary states that the Hospital is using public funds for the purpose of supporting the Association—doubtless remembering how lavishly public funds were this year subverted in the vain and futile endeavour to thwart the purposes of the Association. But, from what we have quoted, it will be evident to all professional persons that the gratuity in question is derived solely from the fees of the Probationers, and not from public funds at all; and, moreover, that no wiser employment of that money could have been made, than one so well calculated to stimulate the professional *esprit de corps* of the pupil, and to enhance the reputation of the training school. We have said that we have reason to believe that other Hospitals also contemplate a similar proceeding. We are not aware what reasons have influenced the Committee of the Sussex County Hospital, although we can well imagine that they intend that in the future, as in the past, their Institution shall be in the forefront of Nursing progress. But one reason which

has weighed with others in this matter, is undoubtedly the fact that at present when a Certificated Nurse leaves her Hospital, the Institution at once loses all control and authority over her, although she bears with her for the rest of her life the testimonial of the training school as to her efficiency and character. If the Nurse became registered, the mere insertion of a new clause in her agreement with the Hospital, to the effect that, if called upon to do so, she would return her certificate, would at once place a great power in the hands of her Training School, and enable it to defend itself against the discredit which any of their Certificated Nurses may at present bring upon them, again and again. Alone, the Hospital would still be, to a large extent, powerless, but fortified by the Registration Board, which keeps in touch with those it enrolls, and being acquainted by the Board with any facts which might be reported to it, the Hospital authorities would be able to take action, which at present is impossible. This fact is becoming very clearly understood, and is already beginning to bear important fruit. The Nursing profession is becoming keenly alive to the fact that it must live up to the level of its public responsibilities, and that, for the credit of the whole profession, efforts must be made to purify its ranks of those who bring discredit upon the calling and every individual Nurse. In this respect, the interests of the Training Schools and of the great body of Nurses are absolutely identical; and the full power of the Chartered Corporation would, doubtless, be given in support of the Schools which maintained such a disciplinary control over their Certificated pupils as the Universities maintain over their graduates, or the Medical Corporations hold over those to whom they have granted diplomas. There is no doubt that the more advanced Schools recognize the moral force and influence which the Corporation of Nurses already wields, and perceive that it is for their own ultimate advantage, and for the public benefit, that the Schools and the Corporation should work harmoniously together.

The day of Parliamentary action for the compulsory registration of Nurses is approaching much faster than the most sanguine advocates of such a measure could have believed to be possible three years ago. Committees which comprise far-sighted men of business, especially if advised by professional people, see that they must legislate at once for rapidly-approaching changes in the Nursing profession, and they will undoubtedly reap their reward in the high reputation of their school in future. On behalf of the Nursing profession in this country, we congratulate the Sussex County Hospital, and especially Miss GEORGINA SCOTT, upon the new scheme of training inaugurated at that Institution.

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