

however, been pointed out with irresistible force that, at the present day, at most girls' schools these subjects are rigorously excluded from the curriculum, on the old-fashioned and absurd argument that their pupils should not possess any acquaintance with the constitution and mechanism of their bodies, and that such learning is essentially "unwomanly." As a consequence of this, there are but few places at which it is possible for young women to acquire a knowledge of these subjects, and, consequently, they are compelled to wait until they enter upon their hospital work before they can obtain such instruction.

There is, therefore, a great and practical want to be supplied in the training of Nurses, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, with its full and practical knowledge of what is requisite, has now come forward to supply the deficiency. It proposes to institute courses of lectures upon Elementary Anatomy, Elementary Physiology, Elementary Hygiene and Chemistry, Domestic and Ward Management, Practical Nursing, and Invalid Cookery. The year, under this scheme, will be divided into three sessions of three months each, and the courses of lectures, referred to, will run concurrently, each course consisting of twelve lectures. Experienced lecturers have been appointed who will take up these separate courses, and the scheme will come into working order at the beginning of April next, the first session lasting until the beginning of July. The sessions will, thereafter, commence on the 1st of October, on the 1st of January, and on the 1st of April of each succeeding year. The fees will be two guineas for each course or 10 guineas for the six courses of instruction—each pupil who pays the composition fee being entitled to attend the various courses in any session that is most convenient to her.

While, therefore, some Probationers will be able by this scheme to pass through the whole curriculum in three months, it is expected, and, indeed, it is to be recommended, that not more than three courses shall be taken in each session, and that the whole curriculum therefore shall be spread over six or nine months. While the lectures will be especially adapted for the instruction of women who desire to become hereafter trained in Hospitals, they will be open to all others who either have passed already through their training as Nurses, or who desire merely to obtain instruction in subjects which, like Hygiene and Domestic Management, or Practical Nursing, are of the utmost importance to all women whether married or single, and whatever their condition in life may be.

It is manifest that the Association has once more displayed its ability to recognize and to provide for wants which exist in the Nursing world, and it is to be congratulated upon this new and valuable evidence of its activity and usefulness.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

THE serious charges, which are brought against the Chelsea Hospital for Women, by the Medical Officer of Health for that parish, demand, as they will doubtless receive, the most careful investigation. Dr. PARKES has officially reported to his Vestry that his attention was drawn to the sanitary state of the Institution in consequence of four of its Nurses having recently suffered from scarlet fever, and that his inquiries have shown that, from a hygienic point of view, the Hospital is in a most defective condition. This Vestry has adopted its medical adviser's suggestions, and has not only called upon the authorities of the Institution to conform to its sanitary regulations, but has petitioned the Home Secretary to order an inquiry into the past management of this Hospital. This is a novel procedure, and it remains to be seen what reply the Home Office will make to the petition, and, indeed, whether that, or any other department of the Government, has any authority to hold an inquiry into a Charity maintained by voluntary subscriptions. This particular point has recently been raised on more than one occasion by members of both Houses of Parliament, who desired to call attention to the management of another Institution, with the result that it was found that very considerable doubt existed as to the proper Minister who should be interpellated upon the subject. It is, however, almost an axiom that when in doubt upon such a matter, the burden of responsibility should, if possible, be thrown on the Secretary of State for Home affairs, which probably explains the reason why Mr. ASQUITH is to be approached upon this occasion. It will be generally felt that a Government inquiry is the proper course to pursue, and for the sake of all other Hospitals it is earnestly to be hoped that it may be held into the charges against the Chelsea Hospital, and a most searching inquiry made, as speedily as possible. For it is essential to the continued existence of our voluntary medical charities that public confidence in them should remain unshaken, and that everything connected with their work and management shall be above suspicion or reproach. It is bad enough, therefore, that one of them should be so publicly and so strongly accused of carelessness, with regard to the most ordinary sanitary arrangements, which would be dangerous in a private house, and might easily be disastrous in a Hospital. When, moreover, it is stated in the plainest terms that a great mortality has occurred amongst the patients, and especially amongst those upon whom operations have been performed, which are ordinarily regarded as justifiable only because they are comparatively safe, and that this mortality has been caused by diseases which are well known to be connected with insanitary surroundings, the gravity of the charges, and the immense responsibility which rests upon the medical staff and the Committee of the Hospital cannot be exaggerated. Everyone interested in the welfare of Hospitals will re-echo the demand of the Chelsea Vestry, that an immediate and searching inquiry shall be made into these charges, and that, if there is proved to be any foundation of truth in them, that the most rigorous proceedings shall be taken against those who are responsible. Until then, everyone must hope that such reckless carelessness of the lives and health of the sick poor, as is inferred, is absolutely incredible, and that the Institution is a palace of healing and not a death trap, as the alleged facts would indicate if they were in any degree true.

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