

creased its term of training from two to three years, so that there are ten out of the twelve large General Hospitals in London which have adopted that standard.

In the Provinces, there have been, during these four years, a constantly increasing number of Institutions which have undertaken the systematic training and certification of Probationers, and the record now stands thus:—There are forty-eight Institutions which train for three years, twenty-five for two years, one for eighteen months, and seventeen for one year, while four vaguely state their term as "from one to three years." Looking more carefully into these figures, we find that, during the past year, in only two instances has there been a retrograde movement; the term of training at the West Ham Hospital having been reduced from two years to one, and at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, from three years to two. It may be taken for granted that both these Institutions will, in due course, regret the adoption of this lower standard, and will revert to the more modern and advanced system. But, on the other hand, we find that the Great Northern Central Hospital in London, the Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Northampton Infirmary, the General Hospital in Nottingham, the Sussex County Hospital, the Kidderminster Infirmary, the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and the Bridgewater Infirmary, have raised their term from two years to three. The London Temperance Hospital has raised it from one to three years. The Royal South Hants Hospital and the Worcester General Infirmary from one year to two, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, from eighteen months to two years.

Now the significance of these facts cannot be over estimated. That twelve important hospitals should, in one year, have raised their standard, and that nine of these should have accepted the three years' system, is proof positive of the immense strides which are being made in this country towards that uniformity of training, which is not only of cardinal importance, but the very first essential to the introduction of any regular system of technical education for Nurses.

For these figures, we are indebted to that very valuable and interesting publication, the NURSING DIRECTORY, and we sincerely trust that in its next issue it may be able to show still further advances and improvements in the system of training inaugurated during the present year by the various large hospitals of the Provinces and of Scotland.

It is noteworthy that Ireland holds a very advanced position in this matter. Out of twelve training schools in that country, one maintains a four years', eight a three years', one a two years', and two a one year's standard of education. In other words, nine hospitals out of twelve in Ireland hold to the modern term, and there seems every reason to believe that, coincidentally with this, all

the modern improvements in theoretical training in the form of lectures and demonstrations, are being introduced into these schools. On the whole, therefore, the survey of progress exhibited by these figures must be considered most encouraging for the future prospects of nursing education in this country.

#### NURSES AS COOKS.

An active correspondence has been taking place recently, in a Glasgow contemporary, upon the qualifications of trained Nurses, and the feeling has been expressed—in which all practical people will coincide—that a trained Nurse should be, to some extent at least, a skilled cook. When it is remembered that, in illness, the diet of the patient is a very essential part of the treatment, and that, at any rate in private houses, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make adequate provision for the preparation of unusual dishes, the value of a knowledge of invalid cookery on the part of the Nurse, cannot be sufficiently calculated. In a few Hospitals in this country, and in most leading Institutions in the United States, regular courses of instruction, on this subject, are given to Probationers, and it is to be hoped that this system will extend until it is the invariable rule in every training school. Meanwhile, we are glad to learn that the Royal British Nurses' Association, keenly alive—as it has always shown itself to be—to the welfare of the public, as well as to the efficiency of the nursing profession, has determined to institute, as part of its educational course, a series of demonstrations on invalid cookery. It is much to be hoped that those who are desirous of entering the profession will utilize their time, while waiting for a vacancy at a Hospital, in passing through this, as well as the other branches of instruction, organized by the Association. It is needless to add that all, whether about to become Probationers or not, would be benefitted by such knowledge and experience.

#### NURSES IN BURLESQUE.

Mention was made in these columns, some few weeks since, of the travesty on Nurses in a scene in a metropolitan theatre which transformed the frequenters of a gambling den into a bevy of women in full hospital uniform. There is now an additional and a worse burlesque at one of the London theatres, where Nurses are represented taking part in very questionable dances and songs. A band of Nurses under the name of the Hot Cross Bun Brigade, in uniform, and with the large red cross on the arm, are shown. These ladies are supposed to let us behind the scenes, and they inform us that when on duty they blush and cast down their eyes, speak softly, and are most demure; but that when the public eye is off them their behaviour is that of the music halls, only a little worse. "Miss Nightingale," who is at the head of the band, is an accomplished skirt-dancer, and figures throughout the whole piece as a person of most frivolous and objectionable type. Surely sufficient fun and burlesque may be had legitimately, without its being necessary to hold up to ridicule, and to asperse the characters of, the hardest worked and most earnest body of, women in the country—the workers in our Hospitals.

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