

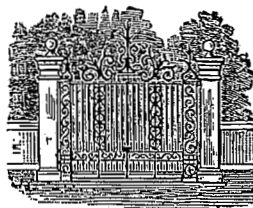
have to content themselves with Nurses who either did not possess the necessary capacities or energy to pass the examination in order to obtain a certificate. A clergyman, member of the management of a house of deaconesses, went even so far as to object to the condition, that those who wished to be admitted to the examination of Nurse should be in the possession of general intellectual knowledge. He gave vent to his reverend heart in the Monthly Nursing Magazine. Where Nursing was only taken as a profession, a means to fight the struggle for life, he could lay himself down by the examination in that form, but he esteemed the calling of deaconess too high to be subdued to such restricting conditions. A noble character, devotion and true philanthropy, were the only things necessary. He was answered in the above-mentioned paper by one of our best known physicians, who made the sound observation that a general intellectual development and a noble character could very well go together, and that there was no reason to doubt why a trained Nurse, skilled in all the branches of her profession, could not also be in the possession of all those virtues that are the crown of womanhood, and which we especially wish to meet in her who has devoted herself to her suffering fellow-creatures. The three years' training in one and the same hospital, or in several institutions which are under the same management, was, however, the article on which the greater part of the attacks were turned. It was thought an act of tyranny to expose the Probationers by this condition for the time of three years to the whims and caprices of the medical superintendent, the matron and head-nurses, under whose supervision they had to receive their training. A Probationer who had, for instance, been working two years in a large Hospital, and was discharged for some trifle, some quarrel with one of the authorities, etc., would have to work three years in another hospital, in order to obtain permission to undergo the examination of Nurse, so that her training time would last *five* years, surely a most discouraging and slackening thing. Much has been said and written on this subject. At last the management of the Dutch Association for the Treatment of the Sick, fearing that the Association would in this way never reach its noble aim, to unite into one common bond all those who devote themselves to nursing work, or who are interested in it, proposed a more liberal reading of the much discussed article, which was accepted with some new modifications by the assembly at the general meeting at the end of May. All who wish to be admitted to the examination of Nurse, must supply proof that they have followed a complete course of instruction in sick nursing, and that they have been actively working consecutively for the time of three years, of which one, at least, must have been passed in a General Hospital or a Children's Hospital, in which, besides the physician, a resident Superintendent of Nursing is employed. In case the training has not taken place in one and the same Hospital, yet for at least one (the third) year, this is strictly required.

The management reserves to itself the right of admitting in special cases exceptions to this rule. By these concessions, from the side of the management of the Association, the threatening thunder-clouds were driven away. At the moment there is only peace and harmony in our Dutch Nursing world, so as to bring to despair a correspondent, of whom you ask any news.

HOLLANDER.

— Outside the Gates. —

WOMEN.



THE sixth Conference of Women Workers will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 23rd, 24th, and 25th, at the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow. The local President is Mrs. Mirrlees, and among the 56 ladies forming the Conference Committee, may be mentioned the Lady Blythwood, the Lady Kelvin, Lady Campbell of Garscube, Lady Trevelyan, Lady Muir, Miss M. B. Blackie, Dr. Elizabeth Pace, Mrs. Lindsay. The Conference will be opened to all ladies interested in work among women and girls. Papers will be read by Workers of great experience, and will be followed by discussion, in which it is hoped, of course, that delegates from various towns will take part. The programme does not promise to be so broad and varied as in previous years. Nevertheless, much information may be anticipated from Miss Cheetham's paper on "The Work of Women's Settlements"; from that by Miss Mary C. Tabor (the very able co-adjutor of Mr. Charles Booth), on "Self Help and State Aid"; from that by Miss Lidgett (twelve years Poor Law Guardian of St. Pancras), on "The Official Work of Women in Local Government"; from that by Miss Maitland (Principal of Somerville College, Oxford), on "The Student Life of Women"; and from that by Miss Marian Kennedy, on the same subject. Miss A. W. Richardson, B.A., Tutor of Westfield College, will consider "The Causes of Intemperance among Women." Mrs. Creighton, wife of the Bishop of Peterborough, will speak on "Serenity of Temper." In addition to these, there will be two special meetings to discuss "What Women can do in the Cause of Purity." Among those who are expected to speak are Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Sheldon Amos, the Hon. Emily Kinnaird, the Hon. Mrs. Ferguson, of Pitfour, etc.

On the evening of the second day, Wednesday, there will be a *Conversazione*, and Friday will be devoted to visiting Glasgow Institutions. Special terms have been arranged with several Glasgow Hotels; and it is hoped that the Railway Companies can be prevailed upon to cheapen their fares for the occasion. Without doubt there will be a large attendance of Glasgow women. It will be interesting to see whether women workers in London and the South will be willing to pay the fare and to take such a long and tedious journey in the latter part of October, for the purpose of "mutual sympathy and advice." Before concluding this brief outline of the programme, we must just mention Miss Janes, the Hon. Organising Secretary, to whose indefatigable efforts, and tireless energy, exerted months before the echoes of the coming Conference reach the public ear, much of the success of these yearly gatherings is due.

THE Trades' Union Congress lately concluded at Norwich, teeming as it was with interest for the working man, by no means over-looked the position of women in the labour market. Among the delegates

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