

knowledge fit to be trusted with the lives of the sick. Something has been done to obviate this disgrace to the Nursing profession, and this manifest danger to the public by the institution of a system of voluntary Registration and the publication of a yearly Register of Trained Nurses. In the near future, this system will doubtless be extended, and be made more or less compulsory by Act of Parliament. Every woman who then desires to term herself a Trained Nurse, would be required to enrol her name and address, and to register the certificate of efficiency which she has received, upon the State Register of Nurses. Then it would be made a criminal offence to pretend to be a trained and responsible Nurse unless justification could be shown for the assumption of the title. The safety of the public would then be secured, and a long standing detriment to Nursing and to Nurses would be removed. Until that time comes, the voluntary Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association will remain the only means of separating the Trained Nurse from the pretender to that title, and therefore all who value their calling should take this means of distinguishing themselves from nursing quacks and impostors.

#### THE CHOICE OF A SCHOOL.

The first necessity then for the woman who desires to become a Nurse is to obtain admission to a training school. This is somewhat difficult to do in the case of the large general Hospitals, either in London or the provinces, because there is at present so large a number of aspirants for the Profession. The Schools therefore are able to select the necessary Probationers to fill their vacancies from a very large number of applicants, and sometimes it is necessary to wait for many months before admission can be granted. In the future, the number of candidates will probably be considerably reduced by the imposition of a premium to be paid for training. In all other callings, education has to be paid for, and there can be no reason why the great advantages derived by probationers in technical instruction and in board and lodging in Hospitals should not be paid for. We believe that it will become the rule, in a very short time—as we were the first to recommend, in evidence given before a Committee of the House of Lords in 1890—that all probationers should pay for their training. We hope to see this course adopted by all the large training schools; and, within the last two years, three important Hospitals have taken this step. Such a measure would, undoubtedly, redound to the benefit not alone of the Hospitals, but of the whole Nursing profession.

The choice then of a Nursing school would be easier to the Probationer prepared to pay for her tuition than it is now under ordinary circumstances. In choosing a school, however, would-be Proba-

tioners should keep in mind two important points. They should only enter a school which gives them the modern standard of training—three years' work in the wards; they should only enter a school in which they will be taught during their entire pupilage, and in which their services will not be utilised during their learning time by the Hospital sending them out to act as Private Nurses outside its walls. Unfortunately, this system is not deemed to be beneath the dignity of more than one important Charity which sends out from its wards semi-trained pupils, charging the public for them, and describing them to the public, as thoroughly trained Nurses, and making thereby a profit, on their labour, at the rate of several hundred per cent. upon the salaries which they pay to their apparent pupils.

We give the regulations of the large London Hospitals to which the medical schools are attached, and which are regarded as the chief Nurse Training Schools of the Metropolis.

We give the names and salient particulars of all the other Training Schools in the United Kingdom which contain more than 40 beds, and the regulations of any one of these can be obtained by writing to the Matron of the Hospital. In the Provinces, the County Infirmaries, as a rule, take the first rank both because of their size and local popularity. But such Institutions as the Royal Infirmaries of Manchester, of Liverpool, and of Bristol; the General Infirmary or the Queen's Hospital of Birmingham; and in Scotland, the Royal Infirmaries of Aberdeen and Glasgow—the pioneers of improvements in the Scotch Nursing world—take deservedly no less high a position. The candidate for a Nursing career must be 23 or 24 before she is eligible for admission to most of the Schools; but after the age of 21 she would be eligible for entrance to various Children's Hospitals, and this is often a very useful method of commencing a Nursing education. She should write to the Matron of the Hospital at which she desires to enter, and ask for particulars as to probable vacancies. If she can afford it, she would be wise to enter the Institution if possible as a paying probationer, for three months at any rate. By this means she would find if she is suitable for the work and if it is congenial to her. And she will be able, as a general rule, to obtain admission in this manner at a much earlier date than if she waited for a vacancy on the paid staff of probationers. She may have to write, however, to several Institutions before she finds one which will be able to admit her within a reasonable time.

#### NURSING BOOKS.

There are certain standard works which the Nurse will find of the greatest assistance to her in the theoretical part of her education. And without pretending to exhaust the list, the follow-

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