

of Lincoln, and Miss ROBERTSON, of St. Helena Home, are helping Mrs. FENWICK with the Private Nurses stall. Kind offers of help are being received at the Offices from the numerous friends and well-wishers of the Association.

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A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council took place at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, the 3rd instant, at the Matron's house, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A Meeting of the Council will be summoned to meet at the same place, at 3 p.m., on the 1st of November. The first Conference of the Council will take place at the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 8.30 p.m., on the same date, at which Mrs. STRONG, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, has consented to read a Paper on "The Method of Training Nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and a Plea for Uniformity in the Education of Nurses." We feel sure that this announcement will be received with great pleasure by all those interested in the question of Nursing education, and that a warm welcome will be given to Mrs. STRONG by her London colleagues, by whom she is held in the highest esteem and admiration for the pioneer work which she has performed in the interest of the profession of which she is so accomplished a member.

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A MEETING of the Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society took place at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, on Tuesday, the 9th inst., when a satisfactory report was presented for the last two months' work. A few new members were elected, in preparation for increased demand during the winter; but owing to the large number of private Nurses (many of them, it is to be regretted, having a very limited training) at work in London, and consequently the number of Private Nurses who for the last six months have not had sufficient work, it is felt that, for the present, Nurses should not be encouraged to leave other branches of Nursing work to compete in private Nursing. Rather should increased experience be acquired by them in the special branches of Nursing.

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THE Special and Fever Hospitals are excellent fields for gaining this necessary experience, and in these cosmopolitan days a knowledge of foreign languages is of the utmost importance to a Nurse who desires to succeed in private Nursing. So many convalescent patients are ordered abroad, and so many foreigners now live in London, that upon several occasions the greatest difficulty has occurred in procuring a Nurse who could speak French or German when required to do so.

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WE should certainly advise all Nurses desiring to undertake private Nursing, trained in those

Schools which make an income for the Institution by sending out half-trained Probationers from the wards, if redress cannot otherwise be obtained, to ventilate this grievance amongst their medical staff, as we feel sure many of them are unaware of the hardships which this unjust system entails upon thoroughly qualified Nurses, who have to compete in the open market with unskilled labour, and are thus deprived of work which is their due. The danger also to their patients cannot be too strongly emphasized.

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WE are also constantly interviewing Nurses who hold a *three years' certificate for one year's ward experience*, the further two years having been spent in private Nursing for the benefit of the training school; this unjust advantage, taken of ignorant Probationers, disqualifying them for Registration and necessitating their returning to Hospital work, in order to qualify for this professional advantage.

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MISS ISLA STEWART has organized a Debating Society amongst the Nursing Staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The first meeting of the session took place on the evening of Thursday, the 4th, when a paper was read by Sister MATTHEW—Miss BRAMWELL—on the Registration of Trained Nurses, followed by an interesting and instructive debate. We are glad to find that Sister MATTHEW is a warm supporter of professional organisation and progress. Immense benefit would accrue were other Nursing Schools to adopt this professional movement, and form, as they are doing all over the States, Alumni Associations in connection with each School, for the development of *esprit de corps*, and to encourage liberality of view amongst the Nursing community. Is there at present, we wonder, a Nurse Training School in the United Kingdom which does not consider its own methods infinitely superior to those in vogue at every other school, or indeed which is prepared for a moment to acknowledge that *any other Nursing School exists?* The slough of self-satisfaction in which trained Nurses are almost universally encouraged to sink is the most fatal attitude of mind in which to undertake a work which demands, more than any other, true catholicity of spirit. Small wonder that we so often hear women of the world question—Why have trained Nurses such cramped minds?

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At a time when we are watching with interest the reform of Nursing in Workhouse Infirmarys, it is with regret that we read a Report, which was sent us, some time ago, from Edinburgh, distinctly demonstrating the immense difficulties which trained Nurses have to overcome in dealing with ignorant and unsympathetic Guardians of the

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