

and present, of Hospitals and Infirmaries and trained Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, and that Associateship shall be open to all Nurses, trained for upwards of three years, holding the responsible position of Sister or Night Superintendent, as it is from the ranks of these latter workers that so many of our future Matrons will be chosen.

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AMERICAN Echoes are not only interesting but instructive, and I feel sure our readers follow with interest those culled from the *Trained Nurse* bearing upon the much debated subject of Nursing progress and the formation of a National Association of Nurses in the States. We are glad to find that the NURSING RECORD is now widely read in America, and hope that the success of co-operation amongst British Nurses will encourage our colleagues across the Atlantic to persevere until their efforts for legal status are also crowned with success.

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Concerning Lack of Unity, Miss P. G. SMITH writes:—

"It is very encouraging to ascertain from recent letters in this department there are broad-minded, wide-a-awake Nurses who are realizing the causes underlying the indifference of the profession towards the question of national organization. It is not press of work, it is lack of unity, a school jealousy which is being fostered by the heads of a few schools. All schools demand the same requirements for admission and graduation. Every school sends out Nurses thoroughly filled with the impression that they represent the best school, and their teaching, both in theory and practice, is superior to all others. This is folly; we know all schools send forth both competent and incompetent Nurses. The question of a national badge is of small matter compared with that of organization. The badge would not represent anything unless there was an organization back of it. No school pin could then be of the same value as would a badge denoting membership in a strong body of well-organized workers as would compose the organization, for, as is well understood, the national association would represent the best and foremost workers. Ignorance and prejudice are hard foes to fight; they die hard, but the end finally comes."

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E. M. SMITH writes:—

"For the past three years I have been watching with interest the discussion in *The Trained Nurse* in regard to the subject of 'registration, and the design for a national badge,' and I am beginning to have a feeling of thorough *disgust* that so much valuable time should be *lost* discussing the *design* of a badge, while, in the meantime, the country is being flooded with *quack* Nurses."

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"M. C. H." is exercised in her mind, just as we are in England, concerning the recent overcrowding of the nursing ranks; she queries:—

"The letter from our sister in San Francisco has set me thinking as to what will become of the Nurses who are in training all over the country, the profession is already overcrowded. It will not be a case of the 'survival of the fittest,' for what would be considered 'fittest' in one city, would not be accepted as such in another, and I am sorry to say that it is not always the Nurse who has the highest idea of her work who is the most popular. No one but a Nurse can understand the various expenses of the life. With lower

prices (ten or twelve dollars a week, which some doctors consider about right) we could hardly live, trusting to the short cases which the majority have. A case lasting a year or two at that price *might* pay, but I am only speaking of the good of the greatest number. In ten years' work of short or moderately long cases—a Nurse would likely have in all six years' work. If in that time she has earned \$6,000 (six thousand dollars) she has done fairly well. Say that she saves \$1,000 (one thousand dollars), her room, board and washing would cost about \$1,500 (fifteen hundred dollars), leaving her \$3,500 (three thousand and five hundred dollars) for clothing, sickness, dentist, charity, Christmas, etc., for ten years. At the end of that time she could not retire and live on her income. If she is a person of fairly good health she will not desire to do so. The training schools must not stop, we must not go backward; but what will become of the Nurses? How would it do to have the Hospitals take graduates for a year each on the old terms, take no new Nurses for a while, then set the standard higher and make the course longer. Please, dear Nurses, do not all speak at once, of course I know that we do not need any more training, that we know all, and more, too, than we need now, but to assist suffering humanity and to help the good cause we might be almost persuaded, and also allow the hospital authorities to have their opinions on the subject."

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"Superintendent" answers with the query, "What is to become of the public"; she writes:—

"I think it is not only a question, 'What will become of the Nurses,' but what is going to become of the public with the number of two-penny halfpenny Nurses turned loose? Let us have a standard, not for effect, but real practical work. I hail with joy the advent of a three years' course."

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A FORTNIGHT ago, we published, in this column, a paragraph sent to us by a much esteemed contributor containing a version of a poem of anonymous origin. Last week, a correspondent of a humorous contemporary, who signs himself "F.R.C.S.," indulged in a voluminous criticism upon this. We are flattered to find that "F.R.C.S."—like so many other eminent medical men—is such an attentive reader of this journal, and that he deems our paragraphs worthy of such detailed annotation; for his remarks occupy nearly two columns of our contemporary. It is somewhat mournful, however, to find that the professional abilities of "F.R.C.S.," which are doubtless great, are so insufficiently recognised by the public at large, as to permit him to bestow so much time and labour upon captious correspondence in the lay press. We have excellent reasons for knowing—but in view of the uncertainty of the identity of the anonymous correspondent of our contemporary we refrain from any hint that the two are identical—that one "F.R.C.S." is, at present, engaged in valuable poetic researches into the Sacred Songs of the late Dr. ISAAC WATTS, with especial reference to those well-known lines—

"Satan finds some mischief still  
for idle hands to do."

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