

when the whole conditions of the workers and the work have been immensely altered, has been increased to a corresponding degree. But without Hospitals, it would have been impossible for the educated women who now form the majority of the Nursing profession to have obtained the technical training which is essential in order to enable them to efficiently discharge their duty. And so, it appears to us, that while it is customary to appeal for public support for Hospitals on the ground that they are of invaluable service to the rich by the extension of medical knowledge which they render possible, and that every member of the community is indirectly benefited by the professional skill which he can obtain for himself in illness, from medical men who without Hospital training could not have obtained the necessary experience in the calling, so the same argument might now fairly be employed with reference to the public work performed by Hospitals in the education of trained Nurses. Nowadays, when the assistance of a Nurse is so universally called for by medical men in the treatment of serious cases of accident or disease, the argument to which we have alluded would appeal to all classes.

In other columns of this journal we are this week directing attention to the great claims of St. Mary's Hospital for public support, and it is by no means the least of the claims of that Institution that it possesses a large and most valuable Training School for Nurses. During the occupancy of the Superintendentship of that School by Miss MEDILL, the present Matron of the Hospital, the greatest advances have been made. The term of training has been raised steadily to the level attained by other leading Nursing Schools in the United Kingdom, and the practical nature of the education which is given to the Probationers is recognised generally in our profession. Indeed, a very effective proof of the public value of the School is given by the fact that when the Duke of York was seriously ill, some years ago, he was attended by two Nurses from St. Mary's Hospital. From the walls of this Hospital women carefully trained in the duties of Nursing are constantly passing out into other fields of work, ready to use the knowledge which they have acquired in its service, towards the relief of suffering, and in skilful performance of the many duties which devolve upon those who minister to the sick. The public, then, may be called upon to support all Hospitals, and, at this particular juncture, especially St. Mary's, because of the valuable work which they accomplish in the training of Nurses as well as in the education of medical men. St. Mary's Hospital has special claims upon the benevolent, because it supplies a large and densely populated district, which is without any other general Hospital.

Hospitals are at present essential to the poor and if the day ever comes when the State or the Parish occupies their place it will be certainly found that such provision for the sick poor can only be made at far greater cost than that which is involved in the maintenance of the present Institutions. It appears to be forgotten, for example, that medical men, who as Physicians and Surgeons, now work gratuitously for a Charitable Institution, would naturally require to be paid for their services if the charitable element were removed. The resulting expense of working Hospitals would therefore be much greater than those who casually consider the question at all understand. The present system therefore is not only efficient but economical, and it is to be hoped that, for the sake of everyone concerned, St. Mary's Hospital will this week receive so large a measure of public support and benevolence that its invaluable work for the poor may obtain ample financial assistance.

The Royal Charter.

NEXT week we propose to commence a series of Articles on the rights and privileges conferred on the members by the Royal Charter of Incorporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association. We would advise members of the Association to obtain a copy of the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws from the office of the Association (price 6d.).

The Matrons' Council.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council will take place at 2.30 p.m. at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Thursday, July 4th. The Council will meet at 3 p.m., and at 4 p.m. Mrs. Eva McLaren has kindly consented to conduct a class on the Method of Conducting Business at Public Meetings.

The National Council of Women.

A VERY representative meeting of women, working in the various departments of Industry, Professions, Politics and Social Reform, took place at 20, Upper Wimpole Street on Thursday, June 27th, to discuss the formation of a National Council of British Women, which it is intended to organize in connection with the International Council of Women, which is to hold its great quinquennial Congress in London in 1898. We propose to give a full account of the meeting in our Special Number next week.

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