

and arithmetic is required from all candidates, and if successful they are admitted to attend the lectures—the whole subjects being taught in three terms, occupying apparently the greater part of one year, and each term consisting of six lectures. This appears to us to be a somewhat weak point in the scheme, because it would be difficult to impart in so limited a time such a knowledge of the various sciences in question as would be of real value to probationers, the great majority of whom would be at first quite ignorant of every subject. At the conclusion of each term, examinations will be held on the subjects lectured upon, and a list of candidates from each institution, arranged in order of merit, will be transmitted to their respective Matrons, but the position of the Nurses of the particular institution only will be made known in each case. The Nurse who passes these examinations will, it is said, receive a "Diploma" from the governing body, certifying her knowledge in the subjects in which she has been examined; the Diploma being distinct from the certificate which the Nurse receives from her hospital for proficiency in general Nursing, and in no case will this Diploma be delivered to the Nurse until she has received her Nursing certificate after due training.

Now, as to the principle of the preceding regulations, we are in cordial agreement with those who have initiated the scheme. But upon various details we venture to think that improvements are possible, and hope that with the progressive spirit evinced in the formulation of such a scheme, some such improvements or some similar alterations may be effected. As we have said, then, we consider that the terms, that is to say, the number of lectures in each subject, should be more than six; and that a Certificate instead of a Diploma should be given. It has become an accepted rule that a Diploma should only be granted under legal authority, and by a constituted University or legalised examining body. In the next place, we hope that the scheme will be carried to its logical conclusion, and, instead of a Diploma being granted for technical and theoretical knowledge, and a Hospital certificate for proficiency in general Nursing, that the system will be simplified, so that the candidate shall be examined both in theoretical and practical work by the same examiners, and that she should receive a general certificate as to her nursing knowledge and efficiency from the joint school and Hospital authorities. This, we imagine, will be the inevitable outcome of this valuable scheme, and the sooner it takes effect the more valuable will the technical training become. It must be always remembered that a knowledge of anatomy and physio-

logy, of hygiene, invalid cookery and the cognate subjects, is only valuable to a probationer as the means to an end—as explanatory to her of the reasons for her various duties in attendance upon a patient, and to assist her in performing those duties in the best possible manner. A probationer, on the other hand, may be a most expert anatomist, but she is useless as a Nurse unless she has carried her knowledge of anatomy to the point of comprehending the best methods of aiding her patient. With the highly educated women who are now working as Nurses, there is almost a danger that Nursing may be treated more as a science and less as an art; that the personality of the patient may be lost sight of in the interest of the "case"; and that, in fact, the practical side of Nursing may be subordinated to the theoretical. That this is a real danger, all who are now engaged in training Nurses are well aware, and while we cordially approve and commend any schemes which will improve the technical training of Nurses, we would yet urge the essential need of their practical work in Hospital wards being also improved. It appears to us that it would be wise, therefore, as we have said, that examinations should be not only of a uniform standard, but that as far as possible they should be distinctly practical in their nature. We especially commend this matter to the notice of the Matrons' Council in England, and would venture to suggest to that body the advisability of adopting some such scheme as that which has been initiated in Dublin. It would be by no means difficult to organise this system in London and in the chief provincial towns, and its benefit to the Nurses at the smaller special and general Hospitals and at the Poor Law Infirmaries, are too obvious to our readers to require any further explanation on this occasion.

---

### Appointments.

---

MISS SOPHIA G. MUNRO has been appointed Matron of the New Convalescent Home at Bearsden, N.B., for the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. Miss Munro was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where she gained a certificate, and was promoted to the position of Sister of the Lewis Loyd Ward, a post she has filled for several years to the perfect satisfaction of her superior officers. Miss Munro is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and of its General Council, and was registered in 1890.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)