

public—it is above all things necessary that a clear understanding and agreement amongst those chiefly concerned should be arrived at, upon the vital principles underlying such a measure. It would even, in our opinion, be better to defer legislation for a time rather than to force forward any hasty or ill-considered measure. The first and great matter upon which an understanding must be reached, concerns the constitution of the body which is to be entrusted by the State with the management and control of Nursing education and registration—that is to say, of the Nursing Profession of the future. In comparison with this, it will be found that the other details are relatively unimportant. Because, it is beyond all question that the many matters affecting the curriculum of education, and the many points involved in examinations, and in the granting, suspending, or withdrawal, of certificates, must all be dealt with in detail, and altered or amended from time to time, by the Nursing Council. It would be impossible, and therefore would be most foolish, to attempt to include a multitude of professional matters in an Act of Parliament. Of necessity, then, these must be left to the consideration and decision of the body entrusted with the control of the whole work of Nursing education.

Consequently, although, to many, these details may perhaps at first sight seem essentially important, they are really quite subsidiary and unimportant, compared with the exact constitution of, and the precise powers confided to, the body which would be established by a Nursing Act. The General Medical Council, for example, when it was first instituted, in 1858, found medical education in a comparatively inchoate condition, but it has steadily evolved therefrom, order and good government. In like manner, it is certain that a strong and representative Nursing Council would be able, with but little friction, and with immense benefits to the Hospitals and the public, to introduce into the Training Schools a uniform system of education, of a uniform standard, with more or less uniformity in the examinations, and with complete uniformity in the Certification and Registration, of all thoroughly Trained Nurses. That such a work would be one of immense difficulty at first, and of immense labour to those engaged in it, goes without saying; but, that it would be accomplished satisfactorily, there is no reason to doubt. Whether the work be quickly and easily, or slowly and with difficulty, accomplished, must depend entirely upon the knowledge, the experience, the professional standing, and the tact, of the administrators of the Act. We have, in brief, pointed out that both the historical experience of similar previous under-

takings, and simple justice to the Nursing profession, alike demand that the executive body of the Nursing Council shall be chiefly composed of representatives of the Registered Nurses; and that, at the same time, and for the same reasons, it is essential that the chief educational bodies for Nurses in the United Kingdom should be afforded some measure of control and authority over the work of Registration. The detailed scheme in question will be found in our previous Editorials on this subject, which have now been reprinted in pamphlet form, and can be obtained from the Offices of this Journal.

Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

BY BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D.

Physician to The Hospital for Women, Soho Square.

LECTURE II.—THE LUNGS AND THROAT.

(Continued from page 407.)

THE patient will require also, as a rule, to be propped up in bed, to enable him to breathe as easily as possible, because while lying on his back or side the full expansion of the chest is naturally impeded. If he has a shivering fit, he will require at first to be warmly covered, and to have a hot water bottle to his feet, and probably some stimulant will be ordered to be administered in hot water. When the perspiration breaks out, it is of great importance to prevent him from throwing off the clothes and thus getting chilled. In Pneumonia, as in all other chest cases, it may be necessary to apply poultices or fomentations or stimulating liniments. Consequently, the Nurse will find it of great importance and usefulness in all such cases if the nightgown—which should be made of wool, flannel, or other warm material—is opened over the shoulders and down the sides, and double tapes attached, so that by untying a few tapes the chest, back, or front, can be exposed with no exertion on the part of the patient, and no difficulty on the part of the Nurse. If poultices and fomentations are ordered, two facts should be remembered: first, that the patient in his restless movements will inevitably displace the poultice upwards or downwards, unless it is firmly secured, and, secondly, that the difficulty of breathing prevents any tight bandages or straps being applied for such a purpose. Consequently, the best method of applying poultices or fomentations in such cases is to make a miniature jacket of flannel, which can be retained from slipping down, by tapes over the shoulders, and from

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)