

she has worked during the time she has been a member of the Society, the Hon. Superintendent was requested to give her a testimonial in the name of the Committee.

WE have received a great number of letters from Nurses on the subject of the "Age Limit," all pointing to the sad fact that there are a great number of Nurses upwards of forty years of age who are unable to procure work. Many doubtless physically capable of performing their duties efficiently—resent very bitterly the position in which they find themselves, and indeed it is a most grievous one.

They blame many causes—amongst others, the three years' standard, Registration, the modern method of training, fads, fancies, and follies; and yet to what do we return after careful and due consideration of this painful subject—to the fact that the natural law, the survival of the fittest, cruel to the minority, beneficent to the majority—is, and always will be enforced.

In the case of trained Nurses—as unhappily in the case of nearly all other employments for women—the labour market is greatly overstocked, not by any means by really efficient Nurses, but by a vast number of women who are daily leaving our Hospitals after a year or two of training, often less; who rush in, and compete with the older and more experienced worker, and with the vigour of youth, and a grave lack of any definite standard of training and efficiency by which the public can judge of a Nurse, manage to obtain work which, in justice to Nurses and the public alike, ought to be reserved for the really skilled worker.

It is inevitable that this overcrowding and disorganisation will daily increase, if an effort is not made to institute a prolonged and thoroughly efficient standard of Nursing education in our Nursing Schools, with a uniform diploma and State Registration; every day that these most necessary reforms are delayed, adds to the increase of the evils from which our poor Nurses are suffering. No injustice is ever permitted under a State-regulated System of Registration, because every woman who can prove to have been in attendance upon the sick for a certain time can, during a period of grace, claim to be registered—and the sooner this is faced, the sooner a high standard of Nursing efficiency will be attained.

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THE Hospital ship *Coromandel*, with headquarters staff and the remainder of the Special Service Corps, as well as the sick and details, is due at the Royal Albert Docks on the 25th.

MANY Nurses who have "times off" in the afternoons are frequently to be seen spending a peaceful, quiet, hour at Westminster Abbey. These will be pleased to hear that Canon Gore is to deliver a series of Lenten lectures on Monday afternoons, at the beautiful old Abbey. He has selected as his subject, "The Beginning of the Christian Church."

Most persons feel competent to deal with Nursing questions. That they have never been associated with Nursing matters or with Hospitals is to them a detail of no importance. Lay papers—halfpenny weeklies and popular pennyworths—touch on professional and medical matters with the utmost nonchalance. Here is an example, under "Answers to Correspondents," which appeared in a paper which claims to be "funny." We may as well explain that there is supposed to be some hidden wit in the extract which follows.

PERPLEXED.—Your medical man could put you in the way of becoming a Nurse, but do not run away with the usual feminine idea that it is a sweet and pleasant occupation. It requires great physical strength and power of endurance. The duties are often repulsive, the surroundings loathsome, the moral and mental atmosphere soul-sickening. I do not wish to turn you away from good work, if you feel drawn towards it, but Hospital Nursing is training of the severest type, and it is no good approaching the labour with false views

WE recently heard of a private Nurse being dismissed from a case because she inadvertently used for stirring some medicine a christening spoon which, highly polished and bright, she found in the room of her patient. It turned out that this spoon had belonged to a dead "first-born," and had been carefully preserved intact ever since the sad event. Of course it was careless of the Nurse to use it, but it was careless also not to warn her of the sacredness of the article. Or perhaps it should have been put under a glass case, where no profane hand could reach it.

FURTHER evidence was given on Monday against Elton, the solicitor, and Kennedy, the medical student, who were charged with conspiring to obtain money by false pretences in connection with the American Massage Company. Kennedy has been sentenced to five years' penal servitude, while sentence on Elton has been postponed.

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