

of the authorities of a Training School, and partly of representatives appointed by the Nurses.

The first point which will occur to English Nurses is the great difference thus shown between the manner in which Training Schools in the United States treat their graduates, as compared with the methods in force in this country. In the former case, it seems that the Hospital recognises its duty, both to the public and the medical profession, to supply them with thoroughly competent Nurses; and its equal duty to its Nurses that they shall be fairly paid for their skilled labour. In this country, the first principle may be, perhaps, observed; but, so far as we know, every English Hospital which sends out Nurses makes a considerable profit from their labour. In some very few instances this profit is placed aside for the future benefit of the workers; but we believe that in not one Institution is the American rule observed—the Nurse taking her entire earnings herself. The justice of such a plan is obvious. The Nurse has worked for years for very insufficient payment—except on the assumption that she is being taught a skilled calling, by means of which she shall thereafter make a fair livelihood; and it is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped that in the near future, Charitable Institutions in this country will cease to sweat their employées, and that the various Private Nursing Departments in connection therewith will be translated into Co-operative Registries on the lines of those existing in the New York and other American Hospitals.

Still, we may claim that the principle of Co-operation originated in this country. In 1887 we proposed, as one of the objects of the British Nurses' Association, that offices should be opened from which Trained Nurses could be obtained; the public having a guarantee as to the efficiency of the Nurse, and the Nurse receiving her own earnings. This idea was widely discussed, and finally was carried into effect by the Nurses' Co-operation; a body which has been so excellently managed that the great success which it has achieved has been thoroughly deserved. A further development of the same principle led to the formation of the Registered Nurses' Society; every member of which must have passed through a minimum period of three years' Hospital training. The number of members admitted has been carefully limited, and it has been proved that the public are well

content to pay high fees for excellent services.

It, therefore, only remains for the British Hospitals which send out Private Nurses, to follow the example of American Training Schools, and allow their workers to take their entire earnings; and for American Nurses to follow the example of their sisters in this country, and form Co-operations of their own; and both the public and the Nursing profession will have every reason to be contented with so valuable and just an improvement upon the systems formerly adopted in connection with Private Nursing.

### Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

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#### LECTURE III.—THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

*(Continued from page 291.)*

HERE are some cases, however, in which similar Stricture of the Rectum is caused by a simple fibrous thickening of the canal, which is as effective a cause of obstruction as the malignant disease which we have been considering, and which, therefore, may equally require to be relieved by the performance of Colotomy; and in which the treatment and Nursing are required to be continued for months, or even years.

The care of cases of rectal fistula is frequently part of a medical Nurse's duties, in consequence of the frequency with which this complaint is found in patients who are already suffering from Consumption. The chief duties will consist in regulating the diet after operation according to the form prescribed by the surgeon, and in keeping the healing parts perfectly clean and healthy.

It occasionally happens that medical Nurses are required to apply ointments and lotions in cases of hæmorrhoids or piles, in which the condition of the patient is such that he cannot bear operation, or when, for other reasons, such measures are not advisable. Two points to be remembered are—first, that if the bowel protrudes it should be carefully oiled and gently returned; and secondly, that external hæmorrhoids must be kept extremely clean. The application of ointments is more efficacious if

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