

First, in 1893, came the statesman-like co-operation of the Superintendents of Training Schools, who met together to discuss the best method of organising their profession and producing a thoroughly efficient system of Nursing the sick. Three years these ladies have taken to consider this great question, and now, as we announced last week, a Convention of Superintendents and Nurses have met in New York City "to consider the formation of an articulated Association of Graduate Nurses"—or, in other words, to form a National Association of American Nurses. A Constitution and Bye-laws have been drafted which will be laid before the various Alumnae for consideration, their actions taken, and a report prepared for the next annual meeting of Superintendents in February, 1897.

It is probable that an organisation such as was outlined by Miss L. L. Dock in her most able paper "A National Association for Nurses and its Legal Organisation," read at Philadelphia in February of this year, will be called into activity early in 1897, and we feel sure that, if her recommendations are adopted, and a National Association of American Nurses inaugurated, that it will be greeted by British Nurses, all the world over, with warm sympathy and admiration.

DERBYSHIRE must look to its laurels. Miss Peter, the Inspector of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute has expressed surprise at the poor support received from Derbyshire, and marvelled at it being so behind-hand, as compared with some other counties, in showing sympathy with the movement for supplying village Nurses. The Bishop of Derby delivered an address at a recent meeting, and expressed regret that the application to the County Council for the initiation of Nursing Scholarships had not been successful, and saying that the subscriptions and donations for the Trained Nurses' Society had only amounted to £28.

THE next examination for the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland will be held on November 2nd. The last date for the entry of candidates' names is October 5th. Schedules may be obtained from the Registrar, Dr. Spence, Burntwood Asylum, near Lichfield.

We last week alluded to a sad accident which took place. A patient dying in a Hospital ward from the result of carbolic poisoning, the lotion having been placed according to rule *in a mug on his locker*, so that the Nurse of the

ward was in no way to blame, although we must unhesitatingly condemn the arrangement. Spittoons are now made in distinct shapes in china, glass and metal, with covers, so that there is no excuse for the obsolete and disagreeable habit of using a vessel of the shape of a drinking mug, for the purpose of expectoration. That a disinfectant should be placed in the mug we consider a wise prevention, but it might be non-poisonous, distinctly coloured, and "spit-toon" marked plainly in black letters on the china vessel. There has been more than one fatal case of carbolic poisoning at Guy's Hospital, and we hope precautions will now be taken which will prevent such accidents in future.

A "NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT" writes: "I was very glad to read what you had to say in last week's paper on the subject of Night-Nursing. My somewhat long experience as a Night-Superintendent has led me to the same conclusions you have reached, viz., that prolonged Night-Nursing sobers a Nurse down too much, and takes the edge off her enthusiasm for her work and her aptitude in doing it. I know, too, what that feeling is of shunning the light of day and preferring the hours of darkness; but I am sufficiently healthy—when I feel this—to recognise that I am in a diseased condition. I have found one year as a Night-Superintendent much more wearing, ageing, and exhausting, than my previous five years' Hospital work; But then this prolonged night-duty came *after* my five years, so that it is probably the worst kind of straw with which I am last laden. I think there ought to be a system of 'changing about' the Sisters of a Hospital, so that all the night supervision does not fall on one alone. Perhaps other Night-Superintendents might relieve their feelings and help others by sending their views and experiences to the RECORD."

"ANTI-DARKNESS" writes: "Thanks, dear Editor, for reminding the Matrons (some of whom badly need it) that all Nurses have not the instincts and habits of moles! I happen to be a sun and light-worshipper, but I am at the same time unfortunate enough to have impressed my Matron with a sense of my trustworthiness and capacity for responsibility. I say 'unfortunate enough' because this estimate of my character leads to my being put far too much on night-work. 'You see, Nurse, I know I can trust you, and that the patients are as well looked after all night as if I were there to see.' Now our Matron is a charming woman, and she says this with such a sweet smile that it is difficult to resist her. But it works out that the Nurse with whom I 'change,' and in whom

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