

tion. The conditions recommended by Dr. Outterson Wood's Sub-Committee are interesting rather than important, because they probably foreshadow the suggestions which will be made to the Corporation. First of all, it is proposed that no mental Nurse shall be deemed to be eligible as a member unless he or she has had three years' training in a recognised Hospital or Asylum for the insane, or has had two years in such an Asylum, and one year in a general Hospital. So that in the first event it is proposed that the principle that Nurses must have had at least one year's training in a general Hospital before being registered is to be disregarded; and those who contend that a Nurse cannot be considered "trained" without a basis of practical experience and theoretical knowledge in general Nursing of the sick, to be acquired only in the wards of a General Hospital, will agree that no person can be "trained" who has only worked in Hospitals and Asylums for the Insane. It will be well known to our readers that, at the present time, there are few Lunatic Asylums in this country in which there is an efficient system of training Nurses even to attend on the insane; so that the first difficulty which confronts the Association will be to define which Institutions can be "recognised" as affording such training. In the next place, it is evident that the scheme proposes to open the Register of Trained Nurses to men as well as to women; and, considering the present class of persons known as male attendants, one can hardly believe that their admission will tend to raise the status of the Association; while we foresee considerable trouble for the Executive Committee, from such members. Thirdly, the work of attending upon lunatics, vastly important as it is, does not necessarily involve any attendance upon those suffering from bodily illnesses or accidents. We hear, for example, that an attendant who has been for twenty years in one of our largest Lunatic Asylums, has never seen an ordinary fracture treated; and that she has never seen a case of pneumonia, of peritonitis, or of typhoid fever. She has seen "two or three cases of dropsy," but does not know from what causes that condition arose; and she asserts that no special Nursing was given to the patient in either case. She has never attended a lecture or demonstration on any professional subject, and avers her belief that such lectures are given in only a

few Asylums. We are assured that the duties of the attendants chiefly consist of keeping the patients quiet, cheerful, clean, and comfortable, and of seeing that they take their meals, and such exercise as may be prescribed for them. What then is the "training" of a "mental Nurse"?

Now, if persons, without training, be entered on the Register of Trained Nurses we have no hesitation in saying that, inasmuch as they are clearly not trained Nurses, to describe them as such on the published official list, is calculated to mislead the public. We understand that this aspect of the question is being seriously considered by various people who have supported the Association in its work on the ground that this purported to be a means of protection to the sick; but who not unnaturally held that if the Register contains the names of persons who are not Trained Nurses it at once becomes a source of danger to the public. Recent events have stimulated the movement for Parliamentary action, and we understand that, next session, a Bill for the Registration of Nurses will be brought forward. Nothing would so expedite legislation, or so convince medical men and the public of the need for an Act of Parliament as proof that persons who were not trained were being enrolled upon the Chartered Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The injury which would be caused to Registered Nurses, if the suggestion of Dr. Outterson Wood were carried out, can hardly be exaggerated. They have paid for the privilege of having their names placed upon a list of thoroughly-trained Nurses. If the Asylum attendant scheme be carried out, they will find themselves classed with a number of men and women who have not had the most elementary training in Nursing the sick. But the latter would be able to term themselves Registered Nurses; and the public will undoubtedly be led to employ them as such. Such a position of affairs, moreover, would be bitterly unjust to that large number of well-trained Nurses who have been refused Registration in the past on the ground that they have not completed the precise Hospital training required by the Board; and if they now find that the privilege refused to them—perhaps because they fell short of their three years' training by some three months or less—is accorded to men, as well as women, who have had no

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