

have had at least one year of training in a Hospital; (2) that they should have had six months' training in an accredited Institution for District Nursing; (3) that if called upon to work in the country they should have had, also, at least three months' approved training in midwifery," and the article adds, "Theoretically, nothing could be better than this," but proceeds to show why this high standard cannot be attained in rural districts. That there are difficulties in the way of securing the services of highly-trained Nurses in country districts we are well aware, but we entirely disagree with the statement that the standard of one year's Hospital training is an ideal one. We have always held, and we hold, that three years' Hospital training is the shortest period which a woman should undergo before being entitled to the name and position of "Trained Nurse," and we strongly deprecate any woman being sent out with this title to nurse either rich or poor with less experience. We understand that the Scottish branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute has already found it necessary to require two years' Hospital training from candidates desirous of admission to its ranks, and we do not doubt that this standard will be raised still further. We confess that we are surprised and disappointed that a paper with the position of the *Times* should commit itself to the opinion that, *theoretically, nothing could be better than one year's Hospital training for District Nurses*. As we pointed out last week, no less an authority than Miss Nightingale has insisted that "A year's training is simply teaching the Nurse her A.B.C.," and all who have had any experience in training Nurses must endorse this opinion. We must disapprove also of the term "Nurse" being applied to those women who work under the Holt-Ockley system. It is quite possible that they do admirable work, and supply a need felt in rural districts, but we object on principle to women who have had little or no training beyond two or three months in a maternity Hospital or in an Infirmary adopting the name of *Nurse*. In our opinion they are cottage helps, and cottage helps only. When Nurses are registered, as doubtless they will be registered, by Act of Parliament, and the term "Nurse" restricted under legal penalties to those women who have succeeded in registering their qualifications, the anomaly of a Nurse who does not know anything of nursing will be a thing of the past. Meanwhile, the fact that this person *does* exist is another argument in favour of speedy measures being taken to guarantee to the public that those persons adopting the *name* have also the qualifications which entitle them to its *use*. We commend to the *Times* the fact that the Select Committee of the House of Lords in their report on Metro-

politan Hospitals' management, has already recognised the necessity for three years' Hospital experience before a woman should be described as a Trained Nurse, and we hope that this fact may induce our esteemed contemporary to take counsel with experts in Nursing matters before it commits itself to the opinion that "theoretically nothing could be better than one year's Hospital training." We venture to hope that the country will respond so abundantly to the Duke of Westminster's appeal, that it will be found possible to improve the education and lengthen the period of training for every "Queen's" Nurse from one to a three years' term, and we have no doubt that this high standard will in the future be demanded by the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

A New Operating Theatre.

REALLY, the operating theatres of our Hospitals are becoming so attractive that one is tempted to wish that one might need an operation—just a slight one—in order to set all the paraphernalia in motion. The latest addition to theatres of the modern type is that of St. George's Hospital which was lately opened by the Duke of Cambridge, and very charming it is.

There are two operation rooms, named respectively the East and West Theatre; the second one is the larger and has marble seats, in semi-circular form, rising tier above tier nearly to the roof. The walls of both passages, anæsthetic rooms, and theatres, are tiled throughout. There is a dado of two shades of green, and above this tiles of a primrose colour. The effect of the whole is both pleasant and clean. There is a delightful cupboard in the passage where the tiled wall opens, and a cupboard is displayed entirely lined with tiles, which is kept for stores. The air of the theatres is filtered before passing into them, and changed every seven minutes. Outside the theatre on the further side is an array of basins, with the usual arrangements for hot and cold water which are turned on by the foot. Over each of these basins is the name of the surgeon whose special property it is, and opposite to it is a peg for his apron. A little low brass towel rail completes this arrangement.

The glass tables, glass cupboards for instruments, and the instruments themselves, are supplied by Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, of Aldersgate Street.

In the instrument cupboards we noticed an arrangement for ventilating them, which struck us as novel. The glass operation table is at present in the future, but doubtless it will come in time. In another room are stores of sponges,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)