

possible to keep it on as it was as much as we could do to keep him in bed and hold him down: his strength seemed superhuman.

On the twenty-second day of his illness the temperature rose to 106.6° in the morning, and fell gradually all the day till the afternoon (it was impossible to tell what it was at the very end, as his friends were in the room), when he lay quiet, exhausted; and in a comatose condition he died.

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### The Duty of the Hour.

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THE duty of the hour in the sphere of Nursing politics is, without doubt, that all members of the Nursing profession, and more especially the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, should express themselves with no uncertain voice upon the proposed admission of Asylum Attendants to the Register of Trained Nurses. We are glad to observe that the *Lancet*, which is largely responsible for the education of the public on this and kindred subjects, coincides with our views of the matter.

We reprint below, *in extenso*, the paragraph on the subject to which we allude:—

#### THE TRAINING OF NURSES IN RELATION TO REGISTRATION.

"We have learned with regret that a feeling of discontent has arisen among the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. A correspondent writes explaining the cause of disagreement in a letter which the limitation of our space will not permit us to publish at length, but which appears to deal in a practical manner with the subject at issue. This, we are informed, is contained in the proposition lately brought forward, that Asylum Attendants should be placed upon the Register of the Association, though they have not undergone the training required of other Nurses. Our correspondent, one of the latter, not unnaturally resents this proposal as tending to lower the status of the Association and of Trained Nurses generally, and, moreover, as being likely to impose upon the confidence of the public, who commonly regard all qualified attendants on illness as persons trained more or less after a similar and generally accepted model of proficiency. This is certainly our own view of adequate qualification. Effective training, whether in Nursing or in any other walk of life, cannot be solely or

primarily special. General principles, covering the whole field of the work undertaken in all its relations, must be first understood. Then specialisation may become intelligent and practicable. By what means it is proposed thus to enlighten the service of the Asylum Assistant, or whether in the course of their special Nursing duty opportunities are found for their more general culture, we are not informed. If such are not in some way afforded and improved we must admit our adhesion to the proposal made by our correspondent, that the qualification for such registration as is contemplated should entail an adequate course of training in one of the General Hospitals."

We quoted in a recent issue the opinion of the *British Medical Journal* that the sick insane and imbecile should receive the care of trained Nurses. We are sorry, however, in view of the great importance of the question, both to Nurses and the general public, that the medical journals have not opened their columns to free discussion on the question of the Registration of Asylum Attendants as Nurses.

To Nurses, and more especially to Matrons of Hospitals and Institutions, belongs a plain duty, which cannot be escaped by evasion, of expressing their opinion in a matter of such importance to the economic condition of trained Nurses. We say more especially to Matrons, because, in a great measure, their Nurses are guided by them; partly owing to the personal influence a Matron possesses with her Nurses unless she be a nonentity; partly also because the question is, to a great extent, an economic one. Nurses often cannot afford, or think they cannot afford, to run counter to the opinions of those under whom they work. Their bread and butter to a great extent depends upon the favour of the powers that be, and they hesitate, not unnaturally, to imperil this. Personally we are of opinion that, even on the lowest ground, that of personal advancement, no end is gained by the sacrifice of principles to expediency, and the Nurse who has the courage of her convictions gains the respect of those in authority in a way in which one who is subservient as a matter of policy cannot hope to do. At the same time there is no doubt that it is difficult for a Nurse to assert an opinion entirely antagonistic to that of her official superiors. It is to the Matrons therefore, that we must look, and we believe we shall not look in vain, to guide the views of their respective staffs at this crisis.

At the meeting to be held in St. Martin's Town Hall, on Thursday, January 7th, at 4 p.m., the question will be discussed, and we hope that many of the readers of the *NURSING RECORD* will make an effort to attend, and to encourage their friends also to be present.

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