

reforms in one particular, by individual effort, instead of by the organization of the nursing profession.

At present the hours of labour of nurses depend greatly upon the chairman or the matron of the institution in which they are working. If they possess a sense of their responsibilities to their nursing staff, they will see to it that their hours on duty are not excessive. But if these officials are indifferent, the reverse condition is likely to prevail. It will be obvious that, if once the profession of nursing is organized on a legal basis, there must of necessity be a central governing council to which matters referring to the discipline, ethics, and well-being of the profession could be referred, and a standard will be thus created which will be a valuable guide to the committees of institutions in determining the hours of work for their nurses.

In our opinion, therefore, all those who desire reforms in the nursing profession will best further them by working for legal registration; this obtained, we believe that other necessary reforms would speedily follow, on the initiative of the Nursing Council. But, as the medical profession was in a chaotic condition until legal registration delivered it from the unqualified quack, so it is, in our opinion, hopeless for the nursing profession to grapple with the difficulties which are before it, until it is organized upon a legal basis.

MR. C. DOUGLAS, the Hon. Secretary of the Nursing Fund of St. George's Hospital, Bombay, is appealing in the public press for subscriptions to enable the committee of this hospital to place the Nursing Fund upon a proper basis. Mr. Douglas says that the Government of Bombay has recognized the value of the nurses, and now makes a monthly grant to the fund; but the grant is insufficient for the requirements of the hospital, and the work could not be carried out without the money "which is received for private nursing, and grants which have been made from time to time from the European Hospital Endowment Fund." We must here point out that a system of supporting the Hospital Nursing Fund in part by the earnings of the private nurses, is radically wrong, and entirely to be condemned. The only way in which to work a private nursing institution with justice to the nurses is that they should receive the fees which they earn, after working expenses have been deducted; and any committee which attempts to make a profit, for any purpose however intrinsically excellent, out of the earnings of its nurses, is acting in our opinion unjustifiably. If the nurses desire to subscribe to the work of the hospital, then let any money they may give be acknowledged as donations, but the fees they earn are their own, and they have a right to dispose of them as they please. We feel sure

that the work done by the St. George's Hospital nursing staff is excellent, and deserves all the support for which Mr. Douglas pleads; but—let it be supported by the wealthy citizens of Bombay, and not out of the hardly earned money of the private nurses, most of whom are doubtless dependent for comforts in their old age upon the earnings of the comparatively few years in which they are able to nurse.

THE needs of the Nursing Fund are at the present time especially urgent, owing to the demands made upon it during the recent epidemic of plague, when all the available hospitals and nurses were quite unable to cope with the disease. Writing of this time, Mr. Douglas says:—

"At this time the sisters and nurses came forward in a noble spirit of self-sacrifice and devoted themselves to the nursing of the sick of all communities. A nurse's life is almost a daily struggle with disease, and must at all times command our admiration; but how much more must this be the case when the combat is waged with an awful disease, the effects of which are most deadly, and the remedies for which are so uncertain? The first case on which our nurses were employed was the late Dr. Manser, and one of our most promising nurses caught the disease and died. After this the calls were frequent, and all came forward willingly and faced the danger amidst the greatest discomfort. The work they did was indeed a noble one, and the committee appeal with confidence to all sections of the community to show their appreciation of it by liberal contributions.

"Unfortunately the results financially have been disastrous, because the receipts for private nursing have fallen off so greatly that there has not been sufficient money in the bank to meet monthly expenditure. This was partly due to the fact that many people who would have required nurses left Bombay, but it was also because there was little demand from up-country, people being afraid to take nurses from a plague-stricken city; also the nurses being employed on plague duty were not available for private work."

We feel sure that many wealthy residents in Bombay, who are cognizant of the work done by the nurses during this trying time, will show their appreciation by placing the Nursing Fund upon a satisfactory financial basis.

THE report of the Korean Mission contains an interesting account, by the medical officers, of the hospital work done in Seoul. The hospitals are nursed by Sisters of the Community of St. Peter's, Kilburn, and the Foreign Mission Association in connection with this community, have made themselves entirely responsible financially for the St. Peter's Hospital for Women at Seoul. Dr. Landis writes from Seoul:—

"The number of cases treated in the out-patient department for the nine months has been as follows:—New cases, 6012; old cases, 6041; total, 12,053.

"This makes an average of more than 1300 a month. There have been 145 in-patients in St. Matthew's Hospital for the corresponding period, and these made

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