

which they are pledged, for the difficult work of infirmary nursing.

MISS CELIA R. HELLER, in writing to the *Trained Nurse*, supporting the views of the Protective Association and deprecating those of the National Association with regard to a standard of nurse training, says, "Do not ask a nurse if she graduated from a large or small school. If she is a good nurse and respectable she is your equal." We desire, therefore, to inquire if a nurse who has been trained in a hospital of only twenty beds is likely to prove as efficient as one with an experience acquired in a school where the beds number some hundreds? "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and it is, at any rate certain that a nurse who holds the certificate of training schools such as St. Bartholomew's and King's College Hospitals is much more likely to obtain an important position than one who is certificated by a small and unknown school. Miss Heller also takes strong exception to a "British subject" being at the head of the the National Association of American Nurses. This is, of course, another attack upon Mrs. Hunter Robb, who, as Miss Isabel Hampton, did such splendid work when Superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and who unquestionably possesses the qualifications most essential in one occupying such an important position. Miss Heller then goes on to say, "The next thing will be that we will have to bow in submission to the decisions of the Countess of Aberdeen." The good work done by Lady Aberdeen in Canada is well known, but we have yet to learn that she is deciding the professional affairs of American nurses, and enforcing their submission to her decrees. This is the kind of vulgar personal attack with which public spirited women are assailed. We do not doubt that Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Hunter Robb will survive these unmerited insults, which simply reflect discredit upon the person who makes them.

THE Surgeon-General of Madras has issued a circular to the effect that the Government is prepared to admit probationers, both female and male, into the Training School for Nurses in connection with the Madras General Hospital, provided that candidates are recommended by local or private bodies, such as the Lady Dufferin's Fund Committee, on the understanding that such bodies shall pay the salaries, cost of maintenance, clothing and travelling expenses of such probationers. Other persons who are approved by the Matron Superintendent, and are willing to pay all necessary expenses, will also be admitted. We hope that the term of training will not be less than three years, as this period has now received Government recognition as the shortest qualifying candidates for Government appointments.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has graciously consented to allow two wards in the New Pavilion of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to be named after herself, and the Prince Consort. This honour was conferred upon two wards in the old infirmary, but as these have now disappeared, it became necessary to obtain authority for their continuance in the new pavilion. Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg has also authorized one of the wards in the Surgical Pavilion (at the opening of which Her Royal Highness was present) being named after herself.

We are glad to observe that when communicating with Sir Arthur Bigge, with regard to the above subject, the chairman, Colonel Allardyce, LL.D., requested Her Majesty's Private Secretary to bring before the notice of the Queen the eminent services of Miss Rachel Frances Lumsden during the last twenty years, first as Hon. Superintendent of the Sick Children's Hospital, and latterly of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. Sir Arthur Bigge replied as follows:—"Her Majesty has learned with interest and deep appreciation of the great and valued services which, during upwards of twenty years, Miss Lumsden has given, with untiring zeal and self-denial, to the sick and suffering of the poorer classes in Aberdeen."

Miss Lumsden's professional colleagues will rejoice that the value of her work has received the gracious recognition of her Sovereign. Miss Lumsden is one of those ladies who have taken a deep interest in the organization of the Nursing profession, and is one of the fourteen matrons whose names are incorporated in the Royal Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association. When the Scottish branch of this Association was formed, with a medical man instead of a nurse as secretary, the personal interest of many leading Matrons in the work of the Association ceased, and we regret that of late years it has not had the great benefit of the active support of Miss Lumsden.

We notice also with satisfaction that in naming the wards in the new pavilions, a ward in the surgical pavilion has been named the "Miss Rachel Frances Lumsden," a recognition of her services which we do not doubt will be keenly appreciated by Miss Lumsden, and also by the Nursing Profession on her behalf.

The High Commissioner for Canada took the chair last Monday evening, at the Imperial Institute, when a lecture was delivered by Professor Roberts-Austen, C.B., of the Royal Mint, on "Canada's Metals." In the course of his most interesting lecture, the professor showed some fine slides, which had never before been exhibited except at Toronto, and which were greatly appreciated.

The governors of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, have decided to purchase the adjoining hospital, church, and convent of St. John

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