

a most careful selection of candidates, to insist, even for assistant nurses, upon at least a year's training in a general hospital; so that there is a possibility of a distinctly lower standard being adopted. Lady Lothian further points out that it is assumed that a sufficient training can be given in workhouse infirmaries, wherever there is a superintendent who has had three years' training, but, as a matter of fact, this is not so. There are few beds, these being occupied mainly by patients suffering from chronic diseases, and there is no possibility of getting adequate experience or training. The reasonableness of this contention will be obvious to any one acquainted with the need of variety of work in order to train efficiently.

The reasons necessitating the cessation of the work of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association were these: "Want of funds to carry on the training by private means on a very extended scale; want of candidates, unless the conditions were made easier; the cutting off of the prospect of promotion from existing efficient nurses by the regulation requiring three years' training; and lastly, the still undefined position of trained nurses. Lady Lothian expresses the hope that the Local Government Board will encourage training schools for this special work, but adds that unless the regulations are modified this will be difficult in practice.

The point brought out as to the undefined position of trained nurses is a most important one, and is but the latest evidence of the increasing public recognition of the necessity for the legal registration of nurses by Act of Parliament. That events are rapidly tending to this end those who study nursing politics cannot doubt.

VOX POPULI.

NOW that it has been decided that the distribution of the income of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund shall be proceeded with, we think the time has come to draw attention to the widespread feeling which undoubtedly exists, that the Distribution Committee should be representative of the interests of the whole community—in order that there can be no possibility of a feeling on the part of the public that personal favour is a factor in the distribution of the Fund—if it is desired that this shall obtain from the public, in the future, more general support. Further, there is certainly a considerable doubt on the part of the public as to the wisdom of placing

hospitals in so independent a position with regard to funds, that they can afford to be indifferent to public opinion, and should this end be attained by those hospitals which benefit from the Prince of Wales's Fund, we think that the result will be a decrease in the support accorded to it. It is undoubtedly a fact that many believe that practices of which they disapprove are carried on in hospitals, and those who desire public support cannot afford to disregard this opinion. The action, for instance, taken by a clergyman at the annual meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund with regard to vivisection cannot be altogether ignored by those who are responsible for the care of the sick poor in our voluntary hospitals. Commenting upon this, a correspondent writes to the *Echo*—

"Medical men may wrangle as much as they please over the evils of overcrowding the out-patient departments of hospitals, and the evils these do in diverting fees from the profession; the public cares not for these things. What it cares for is whether the patient is the first consideration in hospitals. It is beginning to learn from hospital officials that science—so-called—stands forward in the minds of many of these officials as more important than the patient, and the impression is getting hold of the public that the brilliant vivisector is not perhaps the safest man to have the run of a hospital. The fact that some of the clergy gave voice to this impression at the annual meeting of the Hospital Sunday Fund shows that this idea is gaining ground, and, in view of the good of the patients in hospitals, it is to my mind the most satisfactory of all the utterances regarding hospital reform which we have heard during this Jubilee year."

The opinion expressed is one which committees distributing public funds to hospitals will do well to consider.

WISE APPOINTMENTS.

IT is interesting to notice that Dr. Hu-King-Eng, a woman doctor, has been appointed by Li Hung Chang to be medical adviser to his household. Dr. Hu-King-Eng studied and took her diploma at an American University, and has since done valuable work as a Missionary doctor in the Women's Hospital, Futschan. She is expected to represent China at the Medical Congress in London in June. Foreign potentates appear to be recognizing the value of women's services as doctors, as the Emperor Menelik has also appointed, as physician to his household, and as the first general lady practitioner in Abyssinia, a young Swiss lady from the University of Zurich. Only those who have lived in the East can appreciate the boon of these appointments to thousands of suffering women.

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