

ance and advice, by legal process, he must register the qualifications he has obtained, and pay for that privilege the sum of £5. The work of registration is carried on by the General Medical Council, a body composed of some thirty eminent medical men, twenty of whom represent, and are appointed by, the various Corporations and Universities which grant diplomas or degrees; five are appointed by the Privy Council, and five are elected by registered medical practitioners—the latter being called Direct Representatives. The General Medical Council meets twice a year, and strikes off from the Register annually a number of persons who are proved to have acted in such a manner as to disgrace their profession. It also supervises the examinations conducted by the different licensing bodies, and carries out other details of a similar educational character. Its expenditure for this work amounts to about eight or nine thousand pounds a year.

Medical practitioners have, for many years, complained that they obtain no adequate return for the payment they make, that this measure of protection for the public is practically carried out at their own expense, and that at the end of a long, arduous, and expensive education, they find themselves competing in practice with a great army of quacks, whom the public support, and whom the law does nothing to check or control. It is, therefore, very often asserted that registration is not a complete success in the case of medical practitioners.

Some system of nursing control and discipline is eminently necessary, and some method of improving the education of nurses is essential. An alternative system has been proposed, which may be thus briefly described, and which is founded on the proposals of the General Medical Council to the Government, with respect to midwives. It is suggested that nurses who have obtained a three years' training, and a certificate granted after examination, at the termination of their hospital work, should be granted by a central Nursing Council—to be formed by Parliament—a State license to practice as nurses, and that this license should be renewable each year, on payment of a small annual charge, and the production of certificates of continued trustworthiness and efficiency; the certificate being withdrawn in the case of any nurse who is definitely proved to have become untrustworthy. It is evident that such a system as

this would not, in any measure, interfere with the work of the Nurse Training schools, except in so far as their standard of examination would be supervised by the central body, so as to maintain it at the uniform standard decided upon. It is urged that the fact that a nurse possessed a license would prove not only that she had been well trained, but also that she was of continued good character. The fees paid by the nurses for such licenses would be employed in defraying the expenses of the Council, and in publishing an annual register of those so licensed. We deem it our journalistic duty to bring this suggested scheme to the notice of the nursing profession. At the same time, it is open to grave objections which we shall not fail to point out, should the suggestion take a more definite shape.

Annotations.

THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

THE formation of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and the reasons which have led to its establishment, convey a lesson in tactics which trained nurses will do well to note. In referring to the subject at the Mansion House, at a dinner given by the Lord Mayor to the members of the medical profession of the United Kingdom, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, in addressing those present, said: "We are determined that there shall be no failure, either in theory or in practice, to treat them (Army Medical Officers) with the respect to which they are entitled. I insist upon this point, because I have observed, with very keen regret, that there has existed for some time past a certain estrangement between the army and the profession. This want of confidence has had for its result that we have been unable to attract to the Service the number of candidates, and I am afraid I must say the class of candidates whom we should like to see serving on the medical staff. It is possible that in this case, as in many others on which reasonable people have agreed to differ, mistakes have been made on both sides. We on one side, are determined that you shall have no cause of complaint of us: We are now about to deal, and to deal thoroughly, with a question in regard to which not only the medical staff of

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