

duties which fall to the nursing staff are performed ignorantly or carelessly.

On the ground, therefore, of the recognition which they owe to the value of the services of nurses, as well as of the generous support which one profession of women may look for from another, we hope, that in the future more than in the past, medical women will come forward and support the demand for the legal registration of trained nurses. For because the honorary officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association have repudiated its principles, and gone back upon its avowed object of legal registration by Act of Parliament, it must not be supposed that the women who associated themselves for this end will abandon the purpose which they have cherished for the last ten years. They have endeavoured to reform their profession from within—so far they have been baffled in their object. The question has now reached a stage at which the nursing profession must appeal to the public for its own protection to help them to obtain legal status. We hope that at this crisis the medical women will come forward and, in the public interest and as a matter of justice to nurses, support their demand.

LAST week's *Medical Times* had a leader on the Registration of Midwives, in which is written, "In other words, the idea of an independent order of midwives must be, once for all, exploded; and those who desire in future to carry out the work hitherto attempted by midwives must act rather as nurses. Then common sense would dictate the advisability of legislating at once for all nurses—whether engaged in medical, surgical, or obstetric work—upon a common basis; placing them definitely, by law, in their proper position, making them the assistants and not the competitors of medical practitioners; giving them such an education that they shall be enabled to carry out the duties entrusted to them with efficiency; and placing them under such control that they shall have a proper system of discipline throughout their calling, and that this shall be purged from the black sheep which at present infest their ranks. To carry out such principles, the simplest measure perhaps would be to give an annual license to every nurse who can prove herself to be thoroughly efficient and trustworthy, and to revoke the license of any who proved to be unworthy of trust. By this means it would be possible to raise the standard both of training and efficiency with certainty and success; whereas the proposed idea to effect a reform by placing upon the pages of a printed book, or register, the names of some thousands of ignorant Gamps, would not only be useless, but absolutely harmful and even farcical."

We have dealt in this week's Editorial with the question of licensing nurses—with which we must own we are not in sympathy.

How to Attain Greater Uniformity in Ward Work.*

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THE establishment of uniformity is one of the greatest concerns of this society to-day, as it has been from the beginning. Evidently it was of paramount importance in the minds of the founders, for the framers of the constitution name it as the first reason for the existence of the society and assign it as the first duty to be performed.

They say, "The object of this society shall be to further the best interests of the nursing profession by establishing and maintaining a universal standard of training."

Much has been written and said in this body regarding a uniform curriculum, but thus far the attention has been mostly directed towards technical instruction, to the exclusion of the practical.

It seems almost a hopeless task to formulate anything like a uniform system of ward work when no two hospitals, in fact no two wards in the same hospital, have similar requirements or like possibilities.

But we believe it will in time be accomplished, for this society is very much in earnest, and a determination to accomplish anything is to have it half done at once. It is said "Such energy is creative."

Therefore it is with faith that we present these thoughts to you, trusting they may be the opening wedge to prepare the way for comment and discussion, which shall in turn arouse an unflagging enthusiasm that will advance from strength to strength, and ultimately accomplish our purpose.

By keeping this purpose ever before us we best serve the hospitals we represent, they being the first to reap the benefits of more thorough and systematic training.

A nurse is often inclined to forget that the relations between the hospital (by means of the patient) and herself are reciprocal. She is apt to think that she is there only for what she can learn, for what she can receive. This may in no way affect the hospital patient whose welfare is carefully guarded, but it brings disaster to the nurse when thrown upon her own responsibility in private nursing and demands the frequent defence of the so-called "trained nurse" by those who know her for what she really represents.

Since through the hospital patient all other patients are affected and he is that which enables the nurse to perfect the arts of her profession, therefore, we assume that he is the unit of consideration in all the training of nurses, and only

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