

methods of work to be performed during the three years' term may be soon expected, upon which, in due time, a distinctly regulated course of education will doubtless be elaborated.

Beyond the general idea of three years' work, however, the public are evidently becoming aware of the necessity for a nurse to possess a particular knowledge of any special branch of nursing which she undertakes. This is a fact which we commend to the notice of those officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association who desired to place on the Register of thoroughly trained nurses, persons who have only had experience in lunatic asylums; because it proves that their action would not only be, as it has been, strongly opposed by well trained nurses, but would also be condemned by no inconsiderable section of the public, as a deliberate deception concerning the status and education of the women so registered.

The latest instance of this growing knowledge on the part of the public was exemplified by some evidence given at the painful criminal proceedings which took place last week. At the trial of Mr. Collins, the nurse first sent to the patient stated that "she herself did not think Mrs. Uzielli would die of the illness"—an incidental proof of ignorance, which it would have been more judicious to have concealed. Mrs. Uzielli asked her one night if she was a monthly nurse, and she said she was not, to which Mrs. Uzielli replied, "Then you don't understand my case." The evidence of the nurse conclusively proved that the patient's estimate was correct. As a matter of justice, however, it must be remembered that the evidence showed that a monthly nurse had not been asked for; and that, in fact, the institution which supplied the nurse was not made aware of the nature of the case. But the conclusion at which the patient arrived—that the nurse who had not been specially trained "could not understand" her case—is symptomatic of the very natural conclusion at which the public is arriving, nowadays, concerning the education of its nurses. And it is sufficiently important to point two morals; first, the increasing necessity for legislation in order to ensure the proper education and registration of nurses; and, secondly, the need for careful training in the various specialities, at the conclusion of the ordinary term of general work, for all nurses who desire to be regarded by their employers as trustworthy and efficient workers in those specialities.

## Annotations.

### MEDICAL WOMEN.

THE General Assembly of the German Medical Congress, numbering some 15,000 members, which met at Wiesbaden, discussed the question of admitting women to the study of medicine. German women will, we think, scarcely be flattered by the opinion entertained of them by their "medicine men." These gentlemen unanimously decided that it was not advisable that women should make their first attempt to enter the learned professions with that of medicine, which would, they said, in consequence suffer in the public esteem. The conceit of this resolution is superb, but after all what can be expected of men who have the example of the German Emperor, whose views on the woman question are notorious, as their model? The contempt of men for women, and their aversion to women adopting any vocation but that of *haus-frau*—an occupation which ministers very materially to the comfort of the male sex, and may, therefore, be permitted—perhaps reaches its climax in Germany. It was further decided by the German Medical Profession, in solemn conclave assembled, that any attempts to make medical studies less onerous or thorough with the object of suiting the female capacity, were to be resisted. Masculine conceit in excelsis once more; but the women of other nations have proved that they are not only able to attain to the standard of medical education laid down for the "superior sex," but that they can even take honours in a medical examination; there is, therefore, no question of lowering the standard "to suit the female capacity" in those countries which permit women to practice medicine, and there is no reason to suppose that the intellectual capacity of German women is below the average. From our knowledge of them, we should say that it is quite equal to, if not above, that of other nations. We look forward to the day, therefore, which must inevitably come, when the women of Germany will reckon with the men for all their insults. "Bullies are cowards always," and we have no doubt, when the two join issue, the women determined to obtain their human rights, and the men doggedly insistent on retaining masculine privileges, what the result will be. There will be a bitter struggle, doubtless, but it will end in the emancipation of the women.

We turn with relief from the decisions of the medical profession "made in Germany," to the condition of medical women in England, and it

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