

so mismanaged by a small clique of entirely unrepresentative nurses and medical men. The latest evidence of this feeling has taken the form of a request from members of the Registered Nurses' Society to the Committee of that body, to consider whether they must remain connected with the Association.

It will be remembered that, in 1894, we founded the Registered Nurses' Society, in order to obtain for nurses, registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association—who at the time were regarded with considerable jealousy by many employers—Private Nursing work upon the co-operative plan—that is to say, that the nurses should receive their own earnings, less a small percentage deducted to defray the working expenses. The Society has been most successful; the number of members has been strictly limited, so as, on the one hand, to be able to secure to each nurse almost constant employment; and, on the other, to be able to supply the public only with the best class of workers. Both results have been achieved, and it is not surprising, therefore, that members of the Registered Nurses' Society should feel constrained, as the leading Matrons have done, to sever their connection with the Association, while it is so gravely mismanaged and so discreditable to their profession.

According to the original constitution of the Registered Nurses' Society, it was an essential condition for membership that the nurse should be a registered member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and until this time that condition has been enforced, to the very considerable pecuniary advantage of the Association, which thus obtained a number of excellent nurses and their guinea fees. In consequence of a general wish which has been expressed, we are informed that the Committee has resolved that the regulation of the Registered Nurses' Society, which restricts membership of the Society to registered members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, shall be at once rescinded, and that this, therefore, shall not in future be a necessary condition. The Registered Nurses' Society, in fact, will in future demand other credentials. The dissatisfaction which is felt with the present management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the necessity for protecting the public from untrained and ignorant nurses, will, certainly, sooner or later compel some other body to undertake the work of registering Nurses, under conditions which will command professional confidence.

Annotations.

QUEEN'S NURSES.

A NEW departure has been made by some of the Committees in charge of branch establishments of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses who have sanctioned a scale of charges to be made to the poor before a nurse can be sent. We consider this a most ill advised and regrettable measure, and one which certainly was never contemplated by the original subscribers to the Fund. It would be interesting to know if the approval of the Queen has been obtained before this fundamental alteration has been made. The object of making the charge is, it is said, in order that the poor may not be pauperised.

This same objection might be applied with greater justice to the free education of the poor, but nevertheless "school pence" have been abolished. Surely if charity is ever well bestowed it is in the case of sickness amongst the poor. Twopence a visit, or one and twopence a week, is not easily found in a working class household, where the finances are already strained to meet the other inevitable expenses of illness. Another question is, who is to collect these pence? Is a special officer to be appointed for the purpose? If so, the expense of this will largely absorb the additional gain, and if this duty is required of the nurses we fancy that the committees who impose it upon them will find some difficulty in obtaining nurses of the class from which Queen's Nurses are supposed to be drawn.

A PLEA FOR EQUALITY.

OUR article, "A Plea for Equality" in last week's issue has brought us some letters on the subject. We print this correspondence in another column, whereby it will be seen that a strong prejudice exists on the part of some not too well educated Englishwomen against working under a coloured colleague. Why? Social position counts for very little in hospital training schools. A nurse, for instance, who may by birth belong to the artizan classes would see no incongruity in having probationers of high breeding and culture placed under her. As a nurse she has learnt her work; theirs is yet to learn, and they, therefore, must take orders from her. If the same thing is carried a little further, why should exception be taken to a coloured nurse? The points which are considered in appointing a nurse are character and capacity, and, given these, what matter if the individual is black or white, brown, red, or

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