

FROM this we gather that if a nurse serves the Cheltenham Hospital for nine years, she will be receiving £30 a year and 20 per cent. of her earnings, which at the rate of country fees, should come to about £40 a year. What of the excess of income earned by the nurse during all these years for a goodly profit is evidently made out of her labour? It is high time that the system of supplementing the income of charitable institutions out of the earnings of the nurses was put a stop to, especially as these earnings are monopolised as a right, and the nurses receive no thanks whatever from either the Committee, the medical staff, or the public for helping to maintain the hospital.

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"ASYLUM News" advocates the examination and certification of asylum attendants trained in what it calls the "chronic asylums" by the Medico-Psychological Society—the Society, so far, has excluded attendants so trained—and says: "It is quite possible that, failing the prompt action of the Medico-Psychological Association, the Metropolitan Asylums Board may grant a certificate of their own. As they have to supply nursing and attendance for over 6,000 mentally disordered patients, they will be quite within their right in exacting some test of competency from those whom they employ."

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WE hope that no action will be taken by the Metropolitan Asylums Board to form their attendants into an isolated class. In the near future the curriculum of training for mental nurses will surely be considered from an all-round point of view, and such instruction and examination be given to both male and female attendants as will enable them to be justly classed as "trained nurses" by a Central Nursing Board. Asylum attendants will be very unwise to rest satisfied until much more liberal facilities for perfecting the practical and theoretical knowledge of their profession is available than is offered to them at present. The greatest enemies of the asylum attendant are those persons who place before them a cheap and nasty standard, such as suggested by the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and their truest friends those persons of experience who incite them to demand a thorough and efficient nursing education, which will entitle them to State Registration as Trained Nurses.

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WE have been much gratified to observe of late a decided access of intelligent sympathy upon the part of the editorial staff of the "British Medical Journal" on the nursing question. This is good, and must result in effecting many necessary reforms.

IN last week's issue the Journal gives its warm support to the action of the Irish Local Government Board in demanding a higher standard of education upon the part of nurses under its control, and says: "It is to be hoped that the Local Government Board of Ireland will stick to their guns, and take care that the nursing of the poor shall in future be under the direction of women about whose training there is no doubt."

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ON the Training of Probationers at the Shore-ditch Infirmary, the "British Medical Journal" remarks: "It is proposed that probationer nurses should be trained under the Sisters, in the wards, class instruction being given by the Home Sister and the medical officers; a certificate to be granted after an examination held by an outside examiner."

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"IN considering this scheme for training, we see nothing to criticise in the theory, and we trust that in time this infirmary may become a training school for nurses. But to prevent disappointment, we think it well to ask what value the certificate will have in the nursing market, what standard can the nurse attain to? There can be no doubt that those probationers would be at a disadvantage with their more favoured sisters. It is to be feared that the best class of probationer will not be attracted to the Infirmary until she is assured that the training she will get will be an all-round training, including the discipline and the ruling of her daily life, as well as the theory and practice of nursing. Anything short of this only means the heart-breaking worry of perpetual change, which, while detrimental to good nursing, also gets the infirmary a bad name, which is difficult to live down. We trust that the Local Government Board will soon be prepared to schedule all infirmaries whose certificate will be accepted as a guarantee of efficiency, and that the department will state the conditions which must be complied with by any infirmary claiming to be a training school for nurses."

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SUCH action upon the part of any State Department in relation to nursing would mean that our large General Nurse Training Schools which, unfortunately, have failed to take the initiative in the organization of the Nursing Profession, would then be compelled to adopt a standard, and that State Registration would follow after. Indeed, there are signs that this great question of justice to trained nurses, and their patients, cannot now be long delayed.

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THE Berlin correspondent of the "British Medical Journal" writes: "Sick nursing as an art, as a home art, is not so generally understood and practised in Germany as in

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