

years ago, this was all very well, but we have moved on since those days, and the recognised period of training is not less than three years, and some hospitals are even requiring four years of service. A one year's training therefore is useless to anyone who intends seriously to take up nursing as a vocation. It has its uses for those who are above the age at which probationers are ordinarily received, and who desire to learn enough to make them useful for home nursing, or to render a certain amount of assistance to their poorer neighbours, but as qualifying for public work in the future, it is, as we have pointed out, worse than useless, and those who give contrary advice, undertake a very serious responsibility in so doing.

The reason why the one year's course of training has not died a natural death long ago, is, we suppose, a financial one. Candidates who enter for this short course usually pay from £30 per annum to £1 is. a week for the supposed benefits which they receive, and so the coffers of impecunious institutions are replenished. But money making is not the only, or the first, duty of institutions established for the benefit of the sick. In organizing the nursing staff, we unhesitatingly say that it is the first duty of a Matron to consider the welfare of the sick; in the second place, it is a matter of honour to arrange that the nursing staff shall receive the efficient training for which they compacted when they entered the service of the hospital, and, lastly, it is undoubtedly a duty to see that these two conditions are fulfilled with due regard to economy, but to gain the latter by sacrificing either of the other points is, even as a matter of finance, short-sighted and inexpedient. In the long run, the institutions which command public confidence, and which therefore will obtain public support, are those where the patients are efficiently cared for; and it has been demonstrated over and over again that it is in those institutions which maintain the high standard of nursing, only possible where a lengthened period of training is in force, that the patients receive the best attention. The House of Lords Committee gave it as their opinion that the "minimum period" of "thorough training" should be three years, and most large hospitals have now adopted that standard. We commend this matter therefore to the consideration of Hospital Committees and Matrons, and hope that before long a one year's certificate may be an obsolete document.

Annotations.

THE GRATITUDE OF GREECE.

It is with much pleasure that we announce that Medals and Diplomas are to be awarded to the English Nurses who went to Greece during the late war, under the auspices of the National Fund, which was organized by the *Daily Chronicle* for the care of the Greek wounded. Nurses do not work with a view to official reward of their services, and it is only of recent years that any women's work has received public recognition. It is therefore the more gratifying that when they have performed work of international value, under circumstances of especial stress and difficulty, their labours should be officially recognized. We have studiously refrained from pointing out the laborious, difficult, and even dangerous nature of the work accomplished by the English nurses in the Turko-Greek War, as we hold that when nurses volunteer for active service they must be prepared for such contingencies, and their suitability for the task they have undertaken is proved by their grappling successfully with these conditions. If they prove themselves worthy, they have done what England expects of her sons and daughters—their duty. At the same time, as men value reward when they have bravely and successfully carried out tasks of exceptional difficulty, so women equally appreciate public recognition of work well done.

THE ASYLUM WORKERS.

PUBLICITY has been given to the fact that the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association has determined not to issue a Register for the future, and that it has announced this decision without in any way consulting the members upon the subject. It will be remembered that about two years ago the Royal British Nurses' Association proposed to offer to Asylum Attendants admission to the Register of Trained Nurses. We therefore desire to congratulate the Asylum Workers upon the fact that they did not respond with any degree of warmth to this tempting bait. If they had, to the extent of some 2000 in number, paid their guineas into the impoverished exchequer of the Association, the latter would have benefited no doubt; but what redress would have been possible to the Asylum

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