

there can be no doubt that it would be of the utmost benefit, and that, sooner or later, the whole question of the education, status, and means of obtaining suitable nurses for infirmaries will have to be taken into consideration by the Local Government Board. We should rejoice to see the formation of a Poor Law Nursing Service, the membership of which should convey the same distinction and prestige as the Navy and Army Nursing Services. There would then be no dearth of candidates; indeed there would probably be a long list of candidates waiting for vacant appointments, as is now the case in the Navy and Army Nursing Services. But before Poor Law Nursing attains the same popularity as the other Nursing Services, the conditions under which the nurses work will have to be widely different from those which now frequently exist. The authority of the Workhouse Master and Matron over the nurses must cease, and the arrangements made for the comfort of the nurses must be such as will attract a high class of women.

#### TRAINED SUPERVISION.

WE are glad to observe that Dr. Downes, the Local Government Board Inspector, has suggested to the Guardians of the Camberwell Infirmary the advisability of appointing a trained Superintendent of Nursing. We drew attention to this point in a recent issue. It is, at the present day, quite an anomalous condition to place, as superintendent and director of any branch of work, a person practically unacquainted with the details of that work. There is no doubt in our own mind, that the appointment of a capable trained Matron, and the organization of a good training school, would, immediately, have a visible effect in increasing the number of applicants for vacant posts, and thus lessen the difficulty the Guardians now experience. The work and anxiety of the Medical Superintendent would be greatly diminished, and his efforts to raise the standard of nursing supported, and the nurses themselves would realize the benefit of being superintended by one who understood their difficulties, and was capable of arriving at wise decisions concerning them, because of her practical acquaintance with their duties. She would also, if she was—as she undoubtedly should be—the best nurse in the building, set before her subordinate nurses, in her own person, an ideal standard to which they may aspire, and she would be able to instruct them in the ethics of their profession.

#### BESMIRCHED.

##### "NURSE CHARGED WITH MURDER."

THE headings which are now constantly appearing in the daily papers reflecting upon the honour of trained nurses, are horrifying alike to the Nursing Profession and the public, and there is no doubt that the way in which nurses are constantly besmirched in the press is having its effect upon the public mind, and that private individuals are not nearly so ready as they were some years ago to employ nurses, and when they do so, the position of these nurses is increasingly difficult from the fact that frequently they are treated with much reservation, and even suspicion. No greater evidence of this statement could be brought forward than the fact that in an article in our issue of last week, Miss Rosina Graham, a nurse of twenty years standing, considered it necessary to warn employers "to defend themselves—to watch their nurses for two days, or three," before placing confidence in them. The reason for this is not, we believe, that well-trained nurses have brought discredit upon their profession, but that it is open to women of no nursing education, and no personal reputation, criminals, abortion-mongers, and disreputable persons of all sorts, as well as the merely ignorant, to adopt the uniform, and the name, which should be reserved to those who have earned it, and so discredit is brought on a hard working and honourable profession.

We drew attention only last week to three cases which had been reported in the papers reflecting the gravest discredit upon the Nursing profession, but in not one instance was any evidence of professional training produced in connection with these "nurses." We recorded also the case of a "nurse" at the Hoxton House Asylum, who was convicted of whipping the patients under her charge with a cane. We should like to know what qualifications are held by this person entitling her to the name of "nurse." We take this opportunity of once more pointing out to the public, and to the Nursing profession, the necessity for the legal registration of nurses. Nurses have a right to demand that their noble profession shall be purified from those who disgrace it, and the public have the right to expect that a state register shall be a guarantee that those who enter their homes as nurses, and are admitted to closest intimacy, are reputable persons, who are skilful in the exercise of their profession.

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