

time must come, when the heads of our training schools are selected on account of their professional qualifications, attested to by the Matrons' Association, instead as is too frequently the case at present, by reason of their good looks, or smart frocks, or personal influence with members of the selecting committee. We believe that hospital committees would gladly welcome a preliminary selection of candidates on the lines laid down, and would give preference to those who had successfully passed through a course of instruction for superintendents.

THERE is another point of view, also, which is that, in the golden days of the future, probationers who enter nursing schools will receive the instruction to which they are entitled, for only women who are proved capable will be in charge of these schools. How often does it happen, now-a-days, that those who enter hospitals as probationers, honestly desiring to learn, obtain only the most inefficient instruction because of the ignorance and incapacity of those in authority over them. One feels envious of the opportunities which will be the portion of the probationers of a quarter-of-a-century hence.

THERE is a current belief that all nurses holding Government appointments in connection with the Colonial Nursing Society receive a salary of £100 a year or over. We desire to point out, therefore, that this is not the case. According to the regulations of the Society, nurses are paid a salary of £60 sterling per annum. It is important to have an explicit understanding as to whether salaries are paid in English gold, as the rupee and the dollar fluctuate in value. Board and lodging are provided by local committees, and these items may certainly be reckoned at over £40 per annum, so this is probably how the mistake as to the amount of salary has arisen. It should, however, be remembered that the cash received by the Colonial nurses does not exceed £60 per annum, that, apparently, they defray their own laundry expenses, a considerable item in a hot climate, and, moreover, the possibility of the necessity for taking a holiday, and the consequent expense, have to be considered.

MR. GANT's remarks on his professional experiences of nurses of the latest fashion, published in last week's *Medical Press and Circular*, are of such a nature as to be unprintable in these columns, and we refrain from comment beyond saying that it is obviously most unfair for a medical man to saddle the nursing profession with the misdeeds of a young woman who has had *one month's* experience in a lying-in hospital, and that the article in question proves

the necessity for the definition of the term "nurse." The unseemly series of "short stories" with which Mr. Gant has been regaling the medical profession, is this week brought to a close. It is time. We can only express our surprise that the Editor of a reputable medical journal has consented to publish them.

HOWEVER, when the enquiry into the nursing question is held, Mr. Gant's "sketches" will afford proof that registration and reform are necessary. We presume that both he, and the Editor of the *Medical Press and Circular* will then be prepared to furnish chapter and verse for the extraordinary statements recently made in that journal with regard to the nursing profession.

THE Committee of Management of the Poole Maternity Nursing Fund, in speaking of the work done during the past year, say, "The work of Mrs. Le Brun, the district nurse, has greatly increased during the past year, and it is satisfactory to note that the interest of all classes has been more thoroughly aroused. Her work is more and more appreciated, as mothers who have employed her find the very great benefit and comfort they derive from the services of a trained nurse, and her gentleness, unselfishness, and tact have rendered her much beloved, and cannot fail to exercise a beneficial and refining influence in all the homes where she is employed."

THE Visiting Committee of the Newton Abbot Board of Guardians recently referred, in their report, to the case of a child taken out of the house who died at Torquay, and upon whom an inquest was held. They reported that, having regard to the evidence they themselves adduced, and that given at the inquest, they regretfully came to the conclusion that there had been want of observation of the condition of the child on the part of the caretaker. A letter on the subject was read from the Coroner (Mr. Hacker) stating that a rider was added to their verdict by the jury that both the day and night nurses had been negligent in their duty. A motion was carried that the whole question be referred to the Visiting Committee.

THE foundation stone of the Alexandra Nurses' Home, at the Curragh, was recently laid by Miss Combe, the name "Alexandra" being specially bestowed by special request of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, President of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. The stone having been "well and truly laid," General Combe gave a short account of the Home. For some years past, he said, a District Nurse had been employed by the above-mentioned Associa-

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