

done all along—earn their living by nursing, if they wish to do so, and are employed by the friends or doctors of the sick in each individual case. Surely this is reasonable. It is conceded to all other professions that they have a right to determine their own standard, and to frame rules for their own government. Our advice to the nurses of New South Wales is to adopt, from the outset, a *standard* of nursing both in theoretical and practical work, and a fixed term (not less than three years) of training. We further advocate an unbiased public examination by a mixed Board of medical men and matrons, for in the end no other plan will succeed, and temporizing will mean failure both as regards the protection of the interests of trained nurses and also of the public.

In this connection we are bound to point out that the standard in force in the Royal British Nurses' Association is not satisfactory. For instance, the Middlesex Hospital nurses are all accepted without having been tested by any examination, on the personal recommendation of their superior officers, who happen to hold office in the Royal British Nurses' Association. Registration has also been discontinued, no *Register* being now printed. The system, in force, of selection by the Hon. Officers of the members of the governing body for election, by which means all whose views are uncongenial to them are excluded, makes the Royal British Nurses' Association a close borough of the most pronounced description. It is obvious, therefore, that this standard may easily be improved upon, by the New South Wales Nurses.

It cannot be supposed that so important a scheme as Registration can be carried through without arousing the opposition which seems inevitable where interests clash, and for this the New South Wales nurses must, we feel sure, be prepared. They will certainly encounter opposition from the untrained and uncertificated, or imperfectly trained, women who fear that they will lose their means of livelihood. We advise the certificated nurses, therefore, to take a firm stand from the first, and to act as their conscience directs in the interests of their profession. We are hopeful that with Miss McGahey, Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, as one of its Hon. Secretaries, and with a Council composed largely of representative members of the Nursing profession, the new Association will have a prosperous and useful career.

Annotations.

A NEW MILITARY HOSPITAL.

THE War Office has begun to build, on the Millbank Estate, new barracks and a military hospital. The work will take two years to complete, and the cost is estimated at £250,000. The hospital, which will accommodate 250 patients, will consist of four blocks, with administrative offices in the centre, and will supersede the Guards' Hospital in Rochester Row, and the Hospital at the Tower. The new hospital will be placed in an excellent position. The Thames flows within a stone's throw of its walls, and the ward windows will command a fine view of the Houses of Parliament, so that the superiority of the new building to that which now accommodates the sick Guards in the present hospital in Rochester Row will be great, as this building, besides being structurally unsuitable for the purpose for which it is used, is so closed in that little fresh air reaches the wards, and in the treatment of disease it is becoming increasingly recognized that a liberal supply of fresh air is a most powerful aid to recovery. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we note that, within measurable distance, London will have a military hospital which will be up to the standard of modern civil hospitals.

NURSING IN ASYLUMS.

THE annual report of the Directors of the Dundee Royal Asylum for Lunatics states: "Considerable difficulty is still experienced in securing suitable persons for training, and much benefit would undoubtedly be secured were a higher class of applicants available, than can be obtained for this purpose—in short, were the system of probationers, which has been found to act so well in general hospitals, also introduced into hospitals for the insane." Might not the difficulty of obtaining nurses of a suitable class be satisfactorily met by co-operation with General Hospitals? Private Nurses increasingly find the value of possessing the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, and they would find the experience gained by spending a year in an asylum, after obtaining their certificates, of great use to them. The services of such nurses would also be valuable, as the benefit to the authorities of having trained and disciplined nurses in wards would be great. If good

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