

The means whereby the expenses of such a course might be met were naturally discussed, and it was suggested either that a Chair might be endowed at the College, or that it might be made self-supporting by a charge of \$400 for the entire course. In order to enable suitable nurses, who might not be able to pay this amount, to benefit by this special instruction, it has been suggested that the large training schools might be induced to give an exhibition annually to their most promising graduate in order to enable her to avail herself of the advantages afforded.

This brings us to another point, which is the increased and increasing expense of educating nurses, a burden which, in our opinion, should not fall on hospitals supported largely by charitable subscriptions. Surely nurses who receive a valuable education, fitting them for the subsequent exercise of a lucrative profession, should be required to contribute to the cost of their education. In no other profession do we find gratuitous instruction given, and, although, no doubt, nurses have hitherto repaid the hospitals to some extent by the large amount of domestic work which they have performed, it is a question whether training in the domestic arts is not best given before the pupil enters the wards of a hospital. Her professional training can then be much more thorough and systematic, and gone through without the great strain entailed in taking up laborious and unaccustomed domestic duties, in addition to entering upon the special professional education. But in this event the pupil nurse must certainly recoup the institution for the expenses connected with her board and lodging while training, as well as pay her share of the fees of her instructors; in short, her hospital course must be established upon the collegiate basis. The adoption of this plan would, we believe, have the effect of raising the standard of nurses and nursing, for parents and guardians would no longer look upon the least capable member of a family as suitable for a nursing career, if they knew that her professional education entailed expense.

We commend, to British Matrons, Mrs. Hampton Robb's most valuable suggestion for their consideration. If a similar course of post graduate education for nurses could be established in this country, the efficiency of hospital Matrons would be materially increased, while the difficulty now felt by Committees in selecting the most suitable applicant, would be considerably lessened.

Annotations.

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

It is significant of the feeling amongst men that they should have a voice in the management of their own Societies, that the Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England have, by 40 votes to 8, carried a resolution:—

"That this meeting of Fellows and Members, summoned by the council to consider the terms of a proposed new charter, is of opinion that the powers asked for are inadequate, and that no charter should be granted which does not give to the members some representation on the Council."

Mr. Joseph Smith, in proposing this resolution, said "he wanted to see members having a voice in the management of the college, and compared the present position to the position in the Transvaal. President Kruger was represented by the President of the Council, the Volksraad by the Council, and the members of the College by the Outlanders; but, unfortunately, they had no Mr. Chamberlain." The right to direct representation in the management of their own affairs is one for which we have uniformly pleaded, both for trained nurses and midwives. We are, therefore, entirely in sympathy with the members of the College of Surgeons in this matter. At the same time, we hope that the members of a profession which has shown such unanimity in demanding a voice in its own government, will recognize the justice of supporting similar claims on the part of the kindred profession of nursing.

THE DEGRADATION OF NURSING UNIFORM.

In the course of the examination at Worship Street of five persons charged with conspiring to incite women to administer to themselves drugs with unlawful intent, it transpired during the evidence given by one of the witnesses that "in 1897 a woman in a nurse's uniform left at her door a number of advertisements, testimonials, etc., and in consequence she communicated with 'Madam Frain,' and received and took mixtures and pills which were supplied through the post." With 'Madam Frain' we are not at present concerned, the case being still *sub judice*, but we must protest against the use of a nurse's uniform by the advertisement agent of patent medicines, even if that medicine be a reputable one. The outward sign of a trained nurse has of late years been put to such undesirable uses, that the dress which was formerly a protection is so, no longer.

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