

whom they are returned, to the Medical Council. These same two doctors conduct the *viva-voce* examination, which is generally held on the day following the written. The marks for the *viva-voce* are given by these doctors, and reported to the Medical Council, who, *themselves*, examine the written papers, and, in some two or three weeks' time, send certificates to nurses who have passed their examinations successfully. The Medical Council publishes yearly a Register of Certificated Nurses, which can be had for half-a-crown.

Hitherto Registration has had a markedly good effect in the Colony—1st, by raising the standard of education for nurses; 2nd, in raising the status of nurses; 3rd, in awakening ambition in nurses; and, 4th, in affording, by their published Register, an opportunity to the public of knowing that the nurse they engage is duly qualified, an opportunity of which, I am glad to say, many avail themselves.

Of course, education and Registration do not always ensure a nurse being an acceptable one. There are, and always will be, nurses *and* nurses; but, I think, Registration has done as much as we might have expected, in the time.

One rule of the Medical Council does not always work well, *i.e.*, "that the Council shall grant a certificate of competency to any person who has obtained, in England, Scotland, or Ireland, or in any British Possession, or in any foreign country, a licence to practise as a nurse, granted after examination, by any recognized institution, or body, provided that such institution, or body, is recognized, by the Medical Council, to be a fit institution, or body, through its training and material, to grant such a licence."

The difficulty arises that many hospitals do not embody, in their certificates, that they are *granted after examination*. We, in the Colony, can scarcely expect the older hospitals in England and elsewhere to alter the wording of their certificates to suit our requirements. At the same time, it is, naturally, a source of vexation to many well-trained English nurses to be refused Registration on this ground. But time, we hope, will mend these difficulties.

There are separate examinations and certificates for midwives. They are examined in precisely the same subjects as those required by the L.O.S. The number of cases taken under medical supervision is less than in England, but midwives are required to attend them for a longer period.

The desire for registered midwives, implying a certain amount of skill and conscience, is greatly on the increase in the Colony, and we look forward with hope that the time is not far distant when *no* woman will entrust her life to an unqualified midwife.

Having got Registration, I hope we shall not rest until it becomes a law that all midwives shall present themselves for re-examination at least every three years, as, I believe, is the case in Germany.

#### DISCUSSION.

OPENED BY MISS L. L. DOCK.

So much social progress has been made in New Zealand—so much has been gained there of equality of opportunity for all citizens, and of that true freedom which makes possible the fullest and most intelligent development of the individual—that it may be fairly credited with a civilization in some respects more liberal and enlightened than that of other modern nations. We were, therefore, prepared for the broad, free treatment of the subject of the hour, which you have now listened to in Mrs. Neill's paper.

Time and distance did not permit me to learn previously more than an outline of the topics included in this study of the Professional Training and Status of Nurses; I shall not, then, attempt a critical discussion of the paper itself, but, instead, will try to promote a general exchange of experience and opinion by giving a brief account of the conditions in the country to which I belong.

The standard of general education required of probationers in America is as variable as the characteristics of our various sections and the talents of Superintendents for extracting the wheat from the chaff. Nowhere in the United States, and, I believe, nowhere in Canada, is a definite standard of education exacted, such as is implied by the entering examination of Colleges and technical schools. Our circulars still contain the time-honoured phrase, "Women of superior education will be preferred," or words to that effect, and in our Schools, young women with the limited education of a remote country district may be found side by side with those who have received a liberal education, and who have had the advantages of wide reading and cultured associations. There is often a lack of early training in things domestic and housewifely, and I have heard the present Superintendent of the Johns Hopkins' Hospital say, that rather than lecture to nurses, she longed to lecture the mothers who allowed them to grow up careless, unsystematic, inconsiderate of others, and untrained in self-control.

But as function precedes the organ, so in the teaching of nursing must the pressing need of a better general education among probationers become in time one more incentive towards the improvement of the education of women as a whole.

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