

Maine, and the nursing staff of that ship. Forty new members have joined the Council during the past year. It has kept up a most friendly correspondence with its hon. members during the year. The cordial relations between the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools and the Council have also been maintained. During the year a Badge has been adopted. The Council is steadily promoting the three years' standard of training, more especially by requiring evidence of the possession of a three years' certificate of training from all nurses whose names are placed in the Directory issued under its authority; and it is the only Society in this country which attempts to give any force or value to the graduates' certificate. The last notable action taken by the Council has been to empower its Executive Committee to act as a Provisional Committee to consider the organization of a National Council of Nurses, in view of affiliating with the International Council of Nurses. The Bye Laws of the Council have also been recently re-considered, and it is hoped that the proposed alterations will result in increased prestige to the Society. It may be hoped also that as the Society steadily gains new members the good work accomplished by its means will be further increased.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES ASSOCIATION.

This Association has now degenerated into a semi-philanthropic Society, because with the passing of the new Bye Laws all professional *esprit de corps* was eliminated. Practically, so far as professional reform is concerned, the Society has become dormant. It is in the hands of a small official clique, and the natural result has been to destroy the sense of personal responsibility, and the power to effectively cooperate, on the part of the nurse-members. For this result, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mr. Edward Fardon and their few medical colleagues are, and will always be, considered responsible by the nursing profession.

This year, the benefits resulting to the members from Registration have been abolished. The Hon. Officers, without consulting the members, have ceased to publish a Register, substituting for it a Roll of medical men and nurses. Yet nurses are still reprehensibly deluded into paying for registration when no Register is issued. We take this opportunity of explaining to them that what they pay, in reality, is an entrance fee of one guinea on joining the Association and an annual subscription of five

shillings. They are not obtaining any professional benefit, and so long as they maintain in office persons like Mr. Fardon, who, while an Hon. Officer of this Association, founded to obtain legal Registration, voted publicly for a resolution "That a legal system of Registration of nurses is inexpedient in principle and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit," so long will the Association be composed of persons who join it merely because they consider it worth the annual subscription to be associated with a few second-rate medical men, and thus obtain their patronage. When these nurses become aware of the feelings openly expressed by the leaders and best members of the medical profession concerning gentlemen who have ousted nurses out of the control of their own affairs, in order to gain thereby a cheap and much-needed advertisement for themselves, the value of their loyalty and support to the Association will speedily become apparent.

Further proof of the unprofessional nature of the Association is given by the facts that the Private Nursing Society connected with the Association is controlled by an untrained person, and the *Nurses' Journal* has for its Editor an unprofessional woman. As at present conducted, the Association has ceased to command the respect of its friends, whilst it is openly ridiculed by its former opponents.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Progress is slowly being made in the training of nurses, and upon the whole the hours of labour are less, and those of recreation longer than in the past. We are anxious to discuss this in no contentious spirit. But we earnestly appeal to the large London Hospitals, which are supposed to lead in nursing affairs, to realize their great responsibilities and to make the nursing reforms which in many cases are now urgently needed. At St. George's, more than at any other school, alterations have been made, and a four years' system of training established. Reforms in the nursing arrangements of this institution were very necessary.

At St. Thomas's no extension of the educational curriculum has yet been announced and nurses are placed on the hospital register after twelve months' training—a standard which has been in force for nearly forty years.

At Guy's Hospital, certificates can still be obtained after a year's training by lady pupils, which is decidedly unfair to those who go through the full curriculum of three years. We

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