

But, in all reforms, there must be instances where rules framed for the general good press hardly upon individuals. The broad question to be considered is "the greatest good of the greatest number," and there can be no reasonable doubt that this will be attained by the imposition of an educational test.

\* \* \*

THIS point has been demonstrated in all the professions open to men. When the test of examination was required of candidates for the navy and army it was held by many that most desirable candidates would be excluded from the ranks of these professions. There can be no doubt that in some instances this is the case; but, on the whole, the system works well, and there are few who would wish to return to the former state of things.

\* \* \*

AND so in the nursing profession, we have no doubt that a preliminary educational test would be found most valuable, indeed, so much is required of nurses now-a-days—for instance, the reading of prescriptions on boards, where a mistake in a "curl" has, before now, caused the death of a patient—that an uneducated nurse is scarcely a safe person. In pleading for a wider education for nurses, however, we must not be understood to minimise the value of good practical work. We have always placed this in the very front rank, and we are of opinion that prior to certification, examinations should be conducted into a nurse's qualifications, not only by medical men, as regards her theoretical knowledge of anatomy and physiology—though these are necessary and good—but also by Matrons, as regards her practical capacity.

\* \* \*

THE distribution of certificates and badges to the Queen's Jubilee Nurses were this year made by Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, at Kensington Palace. Silver badges, given to inspectors and superintendents of district nursing homes and county nursing associations as a mark of their office, were presented by the Princess to the following nurses:—Eleanor M. Franks, May E. Bullock, Annie M. Peterkin, Esther Chadwick, Alice J. Buckle, Laura A. Wing, Henrietta E. Ellis, Helen Clayton, Mary Monkhouse, Helen Sargent, Sarah A. Andrew, Emma Dudley, Else M. R. Boge, Annie T. E. Phelps, Bertha W. Hall, Florence Steele, Elizabeth Brooke, Grace Penrose, Fanny Scott, Blanche M. Glover, Helen H. Elkington, Annie Mills, Margaret Anderson Rose, Ellen B. Frederick, Charlotte Newman, Charlotte E. Youngman, Annie F. Lann, Mary White, Martha J. Loane,

Agnes M. C. A. White, Elizabeth D. Barke, Mabel Rogers, Margaret Tatham, Fanny E. Whitfield, Millicent Goodwin.

\* \* \*

Newly appointed Queen's Nurses received their bronze badges and brassards, and thoroughly enjoyed the tea, and the sight of the beautiful state rooms in the Palace thrown open for their inspection and pleasure.

\* \* \*

MISS ISABELLA SMITH, who has recently been invested by Her Majesty at Windsor with the Order of the Royal Red Cross, received this distinction for her courageous bearing when in charge of the nursing staff on the hospital ship which accompanied the Benin Expedition. Miss Smith has served in the naval hospitals at home, and was also stationed for three years in the hospital at Malta. She is now at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar.

\* \* \*

It is not surprising that a daughter of the Marchioness of Dufferin who has done so much to bring medical help to the women of India, should be interested in nursing the sick. Lady Hermione Blackwood has just taken up residence at the London Hospital for training. We hope she will pass through the whole term and obtain a certificate, as there is no other road to efficiency in nursing.

\* \* \*

AT the opening of the new College Buildings at the London Hospital, on the 18th inst. the nursing probationers will be awarded their prizes after the medical students have been similarly honoured. This has been the custom at the "London" for many years, and is a very happy arrangement.

\* \* \*

OF late years the salaries of the nurses at this Institution have been considerably augmented. They now receive, for the first year, £12; for the second, £20; that for the third depending upon what position they are appointed to fill. The staff nurses begin at £24, and rise to £27 at the rate of £1 a year. The private nurses receive £30 the first year, £35 the second, £40 the third, and £45 afterwards, and the salaries of the Sisters range from £30 to £60.

\* \* \*

IN the "seventies" a Sister in charge of wards containing 53 patients received £32 a year and *her dinner*, having to provide all her other food, making of uniform, and washing, out of that sum. A very tiny purse sufficed for superfluous cash in those days!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)