

Professional Review.**"THE NURSING DIRECTORY."***(Continued from page 240.)***LONDON HOSPITALS.**

It is instructive to notice from the regulations of the twelve principal London Training Schools the progress which has been made towards the general adoption of the three years' standard of training, and of a test of professional knowledge by examination prior to certification.

A four years' term of service is required at St. Bartholomew's, St. George's, the Royal Free Hospital, University College Hospital, and Westminster Hospital. Certificates are given at the Royal Free, after examination, at the end of four years; at University "at completion of period of training, if deserved in judgment of Nursing Committee." Of the Westminster Hospital no details have been received, but it is believed that the whole period of four years is not spent in the hospital, but that part of this time is spent on the private nursing staff. Certificates of having been employed by the Committee are given to nurses on their leaving the service of the institution. At St. Bartholomew's certificates are given after examination at the end of three years. At St. George's also certification takes place at the end of three years, but whether the knowledge of the nurses is tested is not stated. At Guy's and King's College Hospitals, certification takes place after examination at the end of three years. At Charing Cross this is also the period of training, but whether there is an examination is not stated. St. Mary's gives certificates at the end of three years on "general conduct and efficiency," and Middlesex Hospital apparently still certifies its nurses as proficient without any examination into their professional knowledge.

The London Hospital stands alone in certifying its nurses at the end of two years, and it is much to be hoped that this institution will shortly raise its period of training to that of modern requirements. It, however sets an example to other training schools in having instituted a preliminary course, and in the conduct of its examinations by outside examiners.

At St. Thomas's Hospital it appears that the Nightingale probationers though required to serve for a period of three years are placed on a Register at the end of one year, during the subsequent two years they are required to work wherever they are placed by the Committee, whether in hospitals, infirmaries, or at District Nursing.

We notice further that the number of Sisters and Nurses at the London Hospital has been considerably augmented. Whereas last year they numbered 25, including the Matron's Assistants, there are now 44 all told. This is a much needed improvement, as the number of beds in the past for which the Sisters were responsible was too large to be supervised by one Sister without considerable strain to a conscientious woman. The number of Staff Nurses and Probationers has also been increased from 203 to 264. We notice further that the nurses' certificates are no longer signed by the House Governor, but by the Matron and the Chairman of the House Committee only.

St. George's Hospital has issued new General Rules. It seems therefore the more extraordinary that such a regulation as the following should find place among them:—"A probationer may be dismissed if she accept

money or any treat or present from a patient or relation or friend of a patient." Surely the days for the necessity for such a regulation have passed.

At University College Hospital the regulations have been revised. Many of these appear to us to be excellent, but we notice that "in the selection of Ward Sisters preference shall be given, other things being equal, to such persons as shall have been Paying Probationers." It is true that Paying Probationers are required to serve for three years, but it appears to us that the Sisters should be the most suitable persons on the whole staff, whether paying probationers or not.

PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS.

Among the Provincial Hospitals, since the last returns, the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, the Peterborough Infirmary, the Great Yarmouth Hospital, and the Burton-on-Trent Infirmary, have raised their standard of training to three years. The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, the Suffolk General Hospital, and the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, give certificates at the end of two and three years, so presumably they are aiming at the three years' standard, and it is much to be hoped that the two years' certificate given by these institutions will shortly be discontinued. Hospitals which still adopt the two years' standard are the Salisbury Infirmary, the Cheltenham General Hospital, the Worcester General Infirmary, the Hereford General Infirmary, and the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, while the Essex and Chelmsford, and Newark-on-Trent Hospitals certify probationers at the end of a year. The Dorset County Hospital, which had adopted the three years' standard, has now retrograded, and grants a one year's certificate. With these regrettable exceptions, nearly all the hospitals in the country have come into line, and though uniformity of training has still to be attained in the future, have adopted the three years' standard.

*(To be continued.)***A Crying Injustice.**

ONE of the educational points upon which there was a difference of opinion between the medical and nursing members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, when the nurses had the courage of their opinions, was the inadvisability of registering nurses as thoroughly trained who had only obtained experience in the nursing of children. This question came before the Executive Committee periodically, and the Matrons were always outvoted by the medical men. The wisdom of the Matrons is now becoming apparent, because the nurses, with only children's training, are finding that they cannot obtain work as private nurses at any of the best co-operations. Our attention has been drawn to this, as we have lately had several painful interviews with members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who have been placed in a cruel position by the reprehensible conduct of the Medical Members of the Executive Committee in this matter. The guineas of these nurses have been accepted as Registration fees, and they have been accepted as members of the Association, but they are nevertheless refused membership of the Chartered Nurses' Society. Had the advice of the Matrons been taken years ago, and these nurses been refused admission to the Register until they had been trained in the nursing of adult patients they would now be able to compete on equal terms with other members of the profession.

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