

before the Leagues of Nurses of all our large training schools meet together in a happy family-gathering?

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WE cannot too strongly deprecate the tone of class vulgarity encouraged in the official organ of the R.B.N.A. A paper written by the untrained Secretary, Miss G. A. Leigh, to professional nurses, explaining to them why they should become members, is thus headed, "Why Nurses Should Join the Association: A Paper read at a Meeting of Ladies of the Council and Lady Consuls"!! Trained nurses have hitherto prided themselves upon being trained working women—we have no wish to descend to the status of "lydies."

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WE are glad to notice that the *British Medical Journal* is of one mind with ourselves with regard to the ill-advised action of medical men in Bradford in suggesting the registration of "sick helps." Our contemporary says:—"While there is much to be said for local registers of unattached nurses, we think it is undesirable, in the interests of the public as well as of the nursing profession, to register such an ill-defined class as those who would come under the second of these two categories (that of sick helps), and we hope the promoters of the scheme will re-consider the matter."

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THE nursing school in connection with the Portsmouth Union Infirmary seems to be in a flourishing condition, and we are glad to observe that the Committee have inaugurated the good system of subjecting their pupil nurses to examination by an outside medical examiner. No doubt, as the school grows, the Committee will appreciate the necessity of including an examination in practical nursing in their curriculum, and will thus make the training and the examination more complete by engaging a thoroughly trained nurse to test the nurses' knowledge in this most important branch of their work. Theory is necessary, but practice equally important, and we own our lack of faith in the capacity of young medical practitioners to examine in the practical details of nursing, which they themselves have never been taught, nor practised. But evidently Portsmouth will continue to progress, and the Infirmary Committee are much to be congratulated that they have of late accomplished so much for the efficiency of nursing and nurses.

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WE learn that, at a recent meeting of the Guardians, the Infirmary Committee presented the report of Dr. J. H. Bryant, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P., Lond., assistant physician to Guy's Hospital, on the result of the examination in proficiency of the twenty-four nurses under training at the work-

house infirmary as follows:—"I have tested the knowledge of the nurses of the Portsmouth Union Infirmary by means of a written and an oral examination. I have much pleasure in stating that they have done remarkably well. Of the eight first year nurses who presented themselves, six qualified; one, viz., Nurse Ada Cottrell, with distinction. Two did not obtain the necessary number of marks, and these I rejected. Of the sixteen second year nurses fourteen qualified; five with distinction, viz., Nurses K. E. Gaul, E. M. Payne, E. Gyles, E. M. Worthington, and L. Hanham. Of the two rejected I recommend that Nurse B. C. Price be granted a first year's certificate. Those who qualified showed a sound and practical knowledge of their work, and reflect the greatest credit on their teachers. It is evident to me that their lecturer has taken a great interest in them, and has devoted a good deal of time in bringing them to their present state of excellency. They also showed a most intelligent interest in their work, and I feel sure that this scientific teaching they are now having will not only increase the efficiency of the nursing, but will enable the Portsmouth Union Infirmary to turn out nurses equal to any in the United Kingdom. I congratulate the Board on their farsightedness and liberality in commencing, in their infirmary, the scientific and efficient training of their nurses. I append the list of those nurses who passed:—First year: Ada Cottrell (with distinction), T. M. Nicholson, R. Ives, M. A. Ogg, M. Pirie, N. Grogan. Second year: K. E. Gaul, E. M. Payne, E. Gyles, E. M. Worthington, and L. Hanham, with distinction; B. Lilley, E. M. Wilkins, I. Robinson, E. Partridge, A. Hole, A. Hunt, E. Price, E. Payne, and A. Smith." Dr. Gaston moved the adoption of the report, and said they could flatter themselves that the result was satisfactory to the nurses, the Board, and the Medical Officer (Dr. C. Knott). The successful nurses were then called into the Board room and congratulated by the Chairman upon their success.

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THE bitter cry of the Poor Law Guardians is making itself heard in the land, over the scarcity of well-trained and disciplined nurses who are content to remain in the service of the Poor Law, under the authority of untrained and often ill-educated Masters and Matrons of Workhouses. We have no doubt that these officers will, sooner or later, be deprived of control of professional women, or be replaced by well-educated officers. The present system is a remnant of Bumbledom.

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WE learn that there is constant friction at the Bridgend and Cowbridge Union, and that the nurses come and go in an unceasing stream. One

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