

"The Prototype of all Bitter Waters."—Lancet.

Hunyadi János

"Speedy, sure and gentle."—Brit. Med. Journ., 1884.

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Editorial.

EXAMINERS IN NURSING.

NOW that it is becoming increasingly usual for progressive Boards of Guardians to appoint examiners, unconnected with their infirmaries, to conduct the examinations of their nursing staffs, a question naturally arises in the nursing profession as to the qualifications possessed by these gentlemen for the task assigned to them. As a matter of fact we find that such examiners are commonly young assistant physicians and surgeons attached to the great training schools, and the strong probability is that their knowledge of practical nursing is most slender, and it is probable that the present generation of medical students, the embryo examiners of future nurses, know even less.

EVOLUTION.

Years ago, when nurse training, and consequently trained nurses as we now understand them, did not exist, the clinical work in the wards included the performance of duties now relegated to the nurse. The taking of temperatures, the administration of hypodermic injections, of enemata, of vapour baths, and many other practical details were performed by the

student in the course of his career. Medical practitioners of about 50 years of age therefore possess usually some considerable knowledge of practical nursing details. The student of to-day, however, finds all this work done for him by the modern nurse, and it is only those students who are specially keen who manage to get an insight into the details of nursing which, after all, form the basis of successful medicine and surgery.

INDICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

One of two things then is necessary, if examinations of nurses in the future are to be of an efficient and useful nature. Either hospital authorities must recognise the value of the practical knowledge possessed by those who have made a study of nursing for many years, and must call in expert nurses as examiners, or, budding medical students, ambitious of becoming teachers of the art of nursing, must take the trouble to learn of what it consists, otherwise examinations will develop more and more on theoretical lines, with disastrous results to the nursing profession and the comfort of the sick.

TRAINED NURSES AS EXAMINERS.

In our opinion, both these suggestions—the employment of trained nurses as examiners in

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