

Trained Nurses would be apparent, so that the public might know whether they are employing fully trained and certificated nurses, or not. That all who are able should help in the present crisis is natural and right, but there should be some means of distinguishing between the partially qualified and the fully trained woman.

NURSING AT SEA.

Now that so many hospital ships are being equipped, the question as to whether or no the nurses who are selected to serve on them are good sailors is an important one. It is obvious that though a nurse may be most efficient personally, yet she is for all practical purposes useless, and even an additional trouble, if she is incapacitated by sea-sickness. The point is, therefore, one which should receive attention. At no time is nursing at sea an easy task, even when there is comparative calm. The slight pitching or rolling of the vessel is disconcerting to most landswomen, and when a gale is in process, they retire incontinently to their berths and are seen no more until calm prevails again. But gale or no gale, if there are patients needing their care, nurses must remain on duty; if they cannot do so, then they are not suitable for nursing at sea. The services of those, therefore, who have tested their sea-going capacities, and who are proof against mal-de-mer, should be of value at the present time, as there are comparatively few nurses who have ventured far afield, and their qualifications for service in this important particular have consequently not been tried.

AN OBSOLETE BOARD.

We have turned the page of 1800 with relief and in the hope that 1900 will bring to women the recognition of their right to take their share in the work of the world, to help in its purification, and lastly that they will be accorded their rights as citizens, and obtain equality with men before the law. It was therefore a great disappointment on opening our morning paper to find the announcement that the Local Government Board have objected to the appointment by the Bethnal Green Guardians of a lady as their first assistant medical officer, on the ground that she would have at times to act as medical officer, and that there is great objection to a lady occupying such a position. The Board even goes so far as to refuse to permit the same Guardians to employ a lady typist on the ground that her salary should not be a

charge on the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund. It is proverbial that progressive movements penetrate the sacred precincts of Government Departments but slowly, but when the Local Government Board adopt such an outrageous attitude towards women it is time that they should rouse themselves to look after their own interests. We incline to think that the economic question—the refusal by men to women of the right to earn their own living on the ground of their sex—will be the one which eventually will move women to strong action, and force forward the woman's suffrage movement. A hungry woman is a desperate one, more especially if she has others depending on her, and, when she sees that until her voice is of weight in the affairs of the nation her interests will always be shelved, in favour of those of male electors, she will strike out for freedom. Meanwhile we should advise the Local Government Board to look to its ways and to remember that it is not living in the Middle Ages. We venture also to remind medical women that their position is at present assured, and we hope that they will strenuously resist any encroachment on the position they have won.

CONSUMPTION HOSPITALS.

THE fogs of the last few weeks have once more forced upon our attention the incongruity of maintaining hospitals for phthisical patients in the smoke-laden atmosphere of London. Now that the necessity for abundance of pure air for patients suffering from consumption has over and over again been insisted upon by those best qualified to judge, the time has surely come to remove the institutions maintained for the benefit of these patients beyond the fog and smoke which seem inseparable from London life. If it is objected that busy medical men cannot spare time to visit hospitals not in the centre of London, then surely well qualified resident medical officers should be placed in charge of the patients, or the services of local medical men be requisitioned; but, before all things it seems essential that patients should be placed in an atmosphere in which they can breathe, and now that double windows are condemned as most prejudicial in institutions for the treatment of this disease, and it is considered essential that fresh air should continually be admitted, it is manifest that consumptive hospitals should be removed from large cities and placed in situations where pure air is obtainable.

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