

position towards subordinate members of her own staff. Such an organization as is outlined by Dr. McGee might become a very powerful body, forming a sort of Court of Appeal on nursing matters; but if nursing is, as it claims to be, a profession, then it must, in common with other professions, be accorded a large degree of self-government. In the first place, the expert knowledge of those who have been trained in the practical branches of the profession would otherwise be wanting, and secondly, no profession which is not capable of self-government is deserving of recognition.

Having discussed the question of a standard for the training schools, Dr. McGee considers the standard to be attained by the individual nurse, and is of opinion that—(1) she should be properly endorsed as to character; (2) she should prove that she has had a proper amount of experience; (3) she must pass an examination which would test her theoretical knowledge of the essentials of nursing, and, incidentally, her general education. No one should be debarred on account of sex, race, or creed, but none should be approved who cannot pass an examination on the fundamental branches of nursing, and who has not had practical experience of a general nature. In other words, specialism in nursing ought to be definitely a post-graduate matter, as it is in every well-established profession. With these suggestions we are heartily in sympathy.

Lastly, the means by which the recognized standing of the individual is to be secured will, Dr. McGee thinks, be almost certainly found in State Registration. Further, that it is wise at the outset to recognize the fact that, while some opposition from the untrained professional will always be met, the general support of trained nurses is a pre-requisite to success, and that this is to be secured by making registration easy for those already in the profession. She suggests that the qualification at first might be either the exhibition of a diploma from a training school, or the passing of a simple examination, combined with the production of evidence that the applicant for registration had been a professional nurse for a certain length of time. It would then be easy, from time to time, as found desirable, to raise the requirements for registration.

With the support of the nursing profession, Dr. McGee states there is reason to believe that registration laws could easily be passed in several of the Eastern States, and that a carefully drawn law in charge of some cool and tactful head, will surely meet the success it deserves.

## Appointments.

### MATRON.

MISS CHARLOTTE BOTTOMLEY LEIGH has been appointed Matron of the Central London Sick Asylum, Cleveland Street. She was trained at the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, at the West London Hospital, and at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. Since 1891 she has been first Home Sister, and then did private nursing in connection with the Nurses' Co-operation, New Cavendish Street, and, latterly, during the winter months, has been Lady Superintendent of the Tewfik Palace Hotel, Helonan, Cairo.

## Fire at Charing Cross Hospital.

Charing Cross Hospital was, on Monday, the scene of a fire, which, happily, was put out before much damage had been done. The speedy extinction of the flames was due to the brave and energetic conduct of one of the servants, Florence Flush. It appears that at about three o'clock a large boiler containing fat boiled over in the kitchen, and the fat catching fire, the floor became alight. The maid, aged 17, who was present, at once gave the alarm, and did her best to beat the flames out. When the hospital attendants and police arrived they found her terribly burned and unconscious. She was at once removed to a ward, where, sad to say, she died on Tuesday morning. The Fire Brigade was speedily on the spot, and within ten minutes the fire was put out.

## The Passing Bell.

It is with great regret that we record the death, at Pietermaritzburg, of Sir William Stokes, consulting surgeon to the forces in South Africa, from pneumonia. He was a most brilliant member of his profession, in which he has held distinguished positions, including that of President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Since last December he has held the position of Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland. Since last December he has been acting as consulting surgeon in South Africa.

WE record, with much regret, the death, at Nottingham, of Miss Frances Forrest, for 24 years Lady Superintendent of the Nottingham and Notts Nursing Association, an institution for both private and district nursing. The funeral took place on Tuesday last.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)