

be considered as equivalent to certificates, yet the Lady Superintendent readily replies to inquiries as to the character and competence of any nurse who has been trained in the institution, most people will agree that the grievance of this rejected probationer lacks substance.

### Annotations.

#### THE PLAGUE AT GLASGOW.

We recently pointed out the fact that from time to time cases of plague occur in the ports of Great Britain, and the consequent necessity that machinery for dealing with an outbreak should be in readiness. The warning was well timed, for such an outbreak has now actually occurred in Glasgow. A father, mother and child were first certified as suffering from the disease. Then two deaths were reported. More recently it is announced that a quay labourer, in whose house the disease is supposed to have been contracted, has been removed to the hospital, and that ten families have been taken to the reception house for observation. It is to be hoped that the measures taken may be effective in stamping out the disease. It is stated that medical men take a serious view of the outbreak.

#### THE RED CROSS IN WAR.

MANY complaints have been made during the present war with South Africa that the Red Cross has been fired upon; but when such complaints have been investigated, it has generally been proved that the Red Cross was invisible to the enemy, and it is easy to understand that on a calm day this symbol of peace, on a drooping flag, may be quite indistinguishable.

To meet this difficulty a practical device has been invented by Dr. Charles Maggs, of Swansea, late of the Bombay Commissariat Department, and photographs of it have been published by the International Bulletin of the Red Cross Society, which says that the invention deserves to be recommended to all Red Cross Societies. The apparatus consists of four wings made of light metal fixed to a central axis. On both sides of each wing is painted one half of a red cross. When not in use, the wings fold flat for transport; when in use they are fixed at right angles to each other and so each wing forms with the opposite one a complete red cross which can be seen at a long distance, and moreover a complete red

cross can be seen from all points, whether the air is still or otherwise. It is manifest that this device has great advantages over a floating flag, and it will no doubt be widely adopted.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GRADUATES' UNION.

THE need of a bond of union between those who have been closely associated in intimate daily relations for a while, and have then passed on to undertake new duties in other spheres of work is widely felt. In the medical profession we find old students' dinners afford an opportunity for renewing old friendships in the various hospitals. In the nursing profession our American colleagues have shown us the way in their *alumnæ* associations, and already in this country St. Bartholomew's Hospital has its League of Certificated Nurses. Now the University of London, in which, under the new constitution, the registered graduates are to have a larger share in the government than heretofore, is to have its Graduates' Union, the objects of which are:—(1) To support and strengthen the reconstituted university as a whole and promote its interests. (2) To keep the graduates who are members of Convocation in touch with the university and informed of all important movements concerning it. The management of the union will be in the hands of a general committee, advised by committees representing each of the groups of graduates as divided for electoral purposes (arts, laws, science, music, and medicine), and by local branch committees now in course of formation.

#### A WISE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

THE managers and guardians of the Poplar Union Training Schools at Forest Gate are greatly to be congratulated upon the liberality of their views with regard to the education and upbringing of the 400 children under their charge. The School Committee have organised expeditions during the holidays to some of the sights of London, including the West End shops, and recently the children, to their great delight, were brought westward by the "Twopenny Tube," while visits to the Tower, the British Museum, and Kensington Palace have also been included in the scheme of their holiday education. The desire for the welfare and happiness of the children thus shown cannot fail to have a beneficial and softening, as well as an educational, influence upon their lives.

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