

Annotations.

THE VALUE OF THE "NURSING DIRECTORY."

As the "Nursing Directory," brought out under the authority of the Matrons' Council, will be issued shortly, we desire to draw the attention of trained nurses to the benefits which they receive in placing their names upon it, and to advise them, if they have not already done so, to apply at once for forms of application in order that their names may be included in it.

The special points to be noted with regard to this Directory are:—

- 1.—It is the only one in this country entirely under professional supervision.
- 2.—All applications are carefully considered by a Sub-Committee of the Matrons' Council appointed for the purpose.
- 3.—It is the only Directory which requires a definite standard of training, the qualification necessary to admission being certification by a general hospital of over 100 beds. This standard has been maintained by the Matrons' Council since 1898 as the Council realizes the duty of upholding the value of three years' consecutive training under one school, and does not consider that women who have had a broken training in various institutions, should be accorded the same privileges, and allowed the same status, as those who have worked for their three years' certificate.

It must, moreover, be noted that no charge is made for admission to this Directory, whereas, nurses whose names are inserted in the "Roll" of the Royal British Nurses Association, which still admits women without a three years certificate, have to pay £1 1s. in order to secure admission to this *omnium gatherum*.

Besides the convenience afforded to medical practitioners, trained nurses, and the public of a list of the names and qualifications of nurses issued under professional control, the Directory also gives information as to the regulations of all the principal Nurse Training Schools in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, of the Army, Navy, and Indian Army Nursing Services, and the Colonial Nursing Association, of the preliminary training schools in the United Kingdom, and of all professional associations formed for the benefit of nurses. It is, in short, a book of reference on nursing subjects which those who desire to keep abreast with nursing organization can ill dispense with. Forms of application for admission may be obtained from the Editor, Nursing Directory,

11, Adam Street, Strand, who will also receive orders for the forthcoming issue. The price of this Directory is 5s., or 3s. if ordered before publication.

A SCHOOL BOARD BLUNDER.

The School Board for London is at present extending the scope of the Evening Continuation Classes under its control. These classes are no doubt a boon to many who are occupied during the day, and who desire to continue their education, but the value of the instruction imparted necessarily depends upon the knowledge of the teacher, and we hope that other courses are more carefully organized than those in "First Aid and Home Nursing." The plan adopted with regard to these is as follows. There are to be 240 teachers, who will lecture alternately each week, a doctor, male or female, lecturing one week, and the School Board Assistant, male or female, following on the next week. We cannot too emphatically repeat that nursing is a science, that in common with all other sciences it needs years of hard work on the part of those who study it before proficiency can be attained, that only those who are proficient in a subject can teach it with any degree of usefulness, and that only trained nurses can teach trained nursing. As the only fully trained nurses in this country at present are women it follows that they only should be permitted to give instruction in the practical details of nursing. This argument appears to be self-evident, but that it needs emphasis is apparent from the fact that all sorts and conditions of persons are, even in these days, considered competent to give instruction in nursing, the male teachers of the London School Board being the latest examples. With regard to elementary anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, which form the basis of scientific medicine, as well as of nursing, these can of course be best taught by medical practitioners, but medical practitioners are not trained nurses and therefore even they cannot teach nursing efficiently. The London School Board would scarcely place the teaching of medicine in the hands of a dentist, or of dentistry in those of a veterinary surgeon. Is it too much to ask from it recognition of the principle that only experts should be engaged as paid teachers, and that trained nurses, who are the only persons with a practical knowledge of nursing, should be engaged, to teach the subject?

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