

Ten years of evolution in our profession have taught us much, and we now realize that no form of government can be considered satisfactory which is not based upon professional enfranchisement. We have little doubt that in New Zealand, the only country in the world where women are entirely enfranchised, this principle will be kept in view.

This brings us to another point. New Zealand is at the present time noted for its progressive attitude. Indeed, only the other day we were interested to observe that statutes passed in New Zealand are being transcribed verbatim, and enacted *en bloc* by the Australian colonies, so that New Zealand inspires the legislation of Australia, and as Australia is in many ways ahead of older and more conservative countries, it may be that in the future a large part of the civilized world will follow the lead given by New Zealand.

The point is one of great interest, because we have always contended that a country can only be at its best when it utilizes the brains of the whole and not half of the nation. It seems not unreasonable to assume that New Zealand is now leading the way along the path of progress, just because she has been just and wise enough to enfranchise her women, and to avail herself of the special wisdom which they can bring to bear on politics, a wisdom quite different from, and as valuable in its kind as, that of the other sex.

We shall watch with extreme interest the fate of the Bill for the Registration of Nurses. Surely it must strike even the most determined opposers of Registration that a system which is being advocated in this country, in the United States, in Cape Colony, in New Zealand and Australia, must meet a universal need.

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### Annotations.

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#### SHOULD HOSPITALS HAVE PAYING WARDS?

The advisability of opening paying wards in connection with the Cardiff Infirmary was recently discussed and deferred for further consideration. The proposition of Mr. Isaac Samuel was, "That any person, whose income does not exceed £160 per annum, may be eligible for admission as an in-patient upon the payment of such charges as the Committee may from time to time assess."

This proposal seems to us to be eminently reasonable. The best medical and nursing skill are now available for the artisan classes in the wards of our hospitals. The rich can have the same attention in their own homes, but when it is remembered that besides the fees of the physician or surgeon in attendance, the cost of the services of two trained nurses, essential in a case of critical illness, cannot be estimated at less than five or six guineas a week, it will be realised that it is quite beyond the means of persons of moderate income to have this care during a prolonged illness. As many skilled artisans earn £3 a week, or £150 a year, it is not easy to understand why other persons with no greater income, should not be eligible to receive the benefits conferred by our Palaces of Pain.

It is noteworthy that in the United States nearly every large general hospital has its paying block, or paying wards, which are a great boon to persons of moderate income. Further, such wards certainly increase the value of a hospital as a training school for nurses, as in them pupils receive instruction in attention to niceties which would be out of place in a general ward, but which form so valuable a part in the equipment of a private nurse. It is the lack of such attention to detail which often occasions criticism of private nurses fresh from hospital, and which has given occasion for the remark from a much-tried patient, that every nurse should have a year's drilling under a good lady's maid.

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#### NEUROSIS AMONG RAILWAY SERVANTS.

How many holiday makers, as they hurry out of London, give any thought to the added tension which the increased traffic occasions to those responsible for their safe travelling, notably the signalmen who regulate the trains on the great trunk lines? Yet the strain of such responsibility is great, so much so that an ex-signalman, writing to one of our daily papers, asserts that neurosis exists to a very serious extent amongst railway servants, and that he himself, after being for many years a signalman at one of the busiest boxes near London, was obliged, after years of mental agony, to give up the work. He adds that the reason so few accidents occur is that one man's mistakes are rectified by another without the officials hearing of them.

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