

day and night work, would involve considerable expense to the ratepayers, and a most inefficient and unsatisfactory series of experiments, rather than training of the pupils. As we have before said, it appears to us that the simplest and most feasible method of poor-law training would be to form a Nursing Board of representatives of all the Unions and that this body should not only decide upon a general standard of training and education, but should appoint examiners and confer a general certificate of training; that the technical part of the nursing education should be given by means of lectures arranged in every large centre, and that probationers should be bound to attend certain courses of these before presenting themselves for examination. Then, if every probationer were bound to work for four years under the Board, three years might be passed in a large workhouse infirmary, of at least two hundred beds, and the fourth year devoted to work as a trained nurse at one of the smaller infirmaries. Such a scheme could, doubtless, be easily organized, and it would provide the smaller workhouses with an ample supply of trained nurses, and at smaller salaries than are now paid. At any rate, however the details might be arranged, we feel confident that only by some such scheme of education and co-operation can the question of working the small workhouse infirmaries either in Ireland or England be satisfactorily settled.

Any scheme, however, put forward for the organization of Nurse Training Schools, and for the general and uniform education of nurses, cannot be regarded as feasible unless it be distinctly provided that trained nurses are influentially represented upon its management. In the Training School the practical education, control, and discipline of the nursing staff must, of course, be vested in a Superintendent of Nursing, herself a fully qualified and certificated nurse. And upon any examining board ample representation must be given to Superintendents of Training Schools, to whom will naturally be entrusted the conduct of the examinations in practical nursing. It may appear almost unnecessary to draw attention to such obvious truisms, but experience unfortunately has proved that they require to be emphasized, and the present disorganized condition of nursing in many Poor Law Infirmaries is undoubtedly due to the neglect or ignorance of this very fact. We commend the point to the attention of Irish Guardians.

### Annotations.

#### "WE GRIEVE WITH YOU."

Early in the year, when this country was mourning the loss of its great and good Queen, we published a letter from Mrs. Dita H. Kinney, the Head of the Army Nurse Corps in the United States, expressing "the loving sympathy of the whole body of the nursing profession in America" in this national bereavement. She added, "We grieve with you." British nurses, we are sure, will wish through this journal to extend to their colleagues in the United States their deep sympathy with the sorrow of the American nation in the blow which has fallen upon it in the dastardly attempt upon the life of its President. If anything could intensify this feeling, it is an appreciation of the dignity and heroism with which Mr. McKinley has borne his part in the tragic event which has roused the indignation of the world.

It is in the stress of supreme moments that we obtain a glimpse of the real person, and the quiet unselfishness of the President of the United States, whose first thought at this time of bodily anguish was for his wife, the second for his would-be assassin, and the third for the effect which his illness might have upon the Exhibition, has deeply touched all hearts, and we admire the nobility of character thus revealed, as well as the fortitude displayed in the agony endured by the patient. We can only hope that by the goodness of God so valuable a life will be spared to the American people, and that in the hand to hand struggle with death, our own profession may share with that of medicine the triumph of a victory.

The value of the Emergency Hospital, organised in the Exposition grounds, with its staff of doctors and nurses, has received unexpected and undeniable proof of the forethought of its organisers, and the value of its service. To it the wounded President was at once conveyed, and in it the operation upon which so much depended, was at once performed. It may be that President McKinley owes his life to the resources thus immediately available.

The sorrow of the American nation must throw a shadow over the International Nurses' Congress, which is to meet at Buffalo next week. The meetings on Trained Nurses' Day were, as our readers know, to take place in the

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