

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD.

It was recommended that the Nursing Board consist of one representative from each union, with the addition of the Medical Officer and Lady Superintendent from those unions in which there is a resident medical officer.

On this proposal a long discussion took place, a delegate from Hull pointing out that it would mean that some comparatively small unions might have three members on the Board, while the important town which he represented would have only one, because its union had not a resident medical officer.

The Chairman: But surely a great place like Hull ought to have one.

Dr. Hawkyard laid stress on the necessity of medical men being on the Board, as it would be much better able to do its work than if it was solely composed of laymen.

It was ultimately agreed that a Yorkshire Poor Law Nursing Board be formed, and that it should consist of one representative from each contracting union, with power to co-opt five Medical Officers and five Superintendent Nurses as members of the Board. The Yorkshire College is also to be represented on the Board.

A REQUEST FROM SHEFFIELD.

Mr. G. F. W. Newsholme asked the conference to allow an arrangement to be made by which candidates might be able to pass their examinations at University College, Sheffield, instead of having to journey from that part of the county to the Yorkshire College. The Sheffield College, although not yet part of the Victoria University, would, he believed, be soon associated with it.

Mr. J. C. Stott joined in this appeal.

Mr. Tillotson, however, thought it would be better to have the stamp of the Yorkshire College on their work, especially as the College authorities had met them so generously.

It was accordingly agreed to adhere to the original recommendation, the Sheffield delegates alone voting against it. The result of the conference will be made known to the unions of the county, and after each has chosen a delegate the first meeting of the new Board, which the Local Government Board will, of course, be asked to sanction, will be held.

The Chairman, to whom the thanks of the conference were tendered, said that the Leeds Union, which had already done valuable work in the training of Nurses, would be glad to give other unions that had not had similar facilities the benefits of their experience.

The unions joining the scheme will be asked to bind themselves by agreement for a period of three years to carry out its proposals.

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ETHICS OF NURSING.*

By MRS. L. E. GRETTER,

Principal Farrand Training School, Detroit, Mich.

The science of duty, of the principles of duty as applied to nursing—what does it embrace? Much more than technical knowledge and skill, important as they are, that years of study and training and experience can give. Underlying them must be the motives and thoughts that, converted into action, will make the performance of every act an expression of the spirit of the noble profession that nursing is.

It has been said that in education the aims called for by the world are embraced in the two words, character and health. The precepts and practice of the Great Teacher in His perfect human life established that truth, but it has been a long while dawning upon the minds and mellowing the hearts of the inhabitants of the world. That fact, too, is gradually enlightening the understanding and bringing practical results in the readjustment of educational, social and industrial standards along altruistic lines.

Nursing is a manual occupation and a profession based upon character and health, and a woman engaged in it is afforded peculiar opportunities for exercising and cultivating her natural faculties in the direction that meets these aims. Whether in the ranks of the private nurse caring for one patient at a time, or in settlement or district work, or in charge of a ward, or a training school, or a hospital, she should recognize herself as a development of the evolutionary forces that are at work to perfect the race. That is a wide perspective, but it is the one view that will make her continually elevate her standards of life and conduct, and serve as the true incentive to live up to them. By being herself an embodiment of plain living, high thinking and healthful, cleanly habits, these become the strong warp of the character that she is weaving into the web of life, which depends for its beauty upon those graces of heart and soul that form the woof. What are those graces? They are "the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, righteousness and truth."

Consider for a moment the quiet beneficence of the influence of such a character wherever she moves, and especially at the bedside of the sick and suffering. Her presence, her look, her touch, radiate health and comfort and sympathy; and they, together with her knowledge of technique, her systematic methods and skill, her un-

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