

practical problems of hospital administration and to give students systematic instruction in the organization and management of training schools for nurses.

The general supervision of this course will be in the hands of a trained teacher, who will supplement the work of the special lectures, and conduct such excursions and field work as may be found necessary in the successful pursuit of the course. Thus it is proposed during the year to make careful studies of the following subjects:—

Laboratories: preparation of culture media; isolation and culture of bacteria; preparation of anti-toxines. Milk Laboratories: modified milk, sterilized milk; Pasteurized milk. Dairies: source of bacteria in milk; effect of bacteria on milk. General hospital. Private hospitals. Special hospitals. Training schools. Small general hospitals. Insane asylums. Dietary on scientific basis in an insane asylum. Operating theatre: sterilizing plant; preparation for operation; detail work of clinic. Philanthropic organizations: relations to the nursing profession.

(To be continued.)

The R. B. N. A. and the Midwives' Bill.

Mr. Fardon, the Medical Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association does not learn wisdom by experience, but is still making foolish suggestions with regard to the Midwives' Bill, and at a meeting of the Council of the R. B. N. A. held last month, proposed the insertion of a new clause in this Bill which, as our readers know, provides that any woman not certified under the Act who uses the title of midwife is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding £5. Mr. Fardon's clause runs thus: "The penalty mentioned in this clause shall not apply to the persons whose names are published in the list maintained by the Royal British Nurses' Association."

Why midwives who are members of the R. B. N. A. should be exempted from the law of the land Mr. Fardon did not see fit to explain. We observe, however, that Dr. Galton said he "did not believe such an amendment would have a chance of acceptance," and Dr. W. S. A. Griffith sincerely trusted that this and another amendment would not be passed. "They should be put on the Agenda, and circulated to all members, and then an opinion could be arrived at." With Dr. Galton he "thought it most highly improbable that any special exemptions would be made when once registration was settled."

Those who have followed the discussion of the midwife question at R. B. N. A. meetings will note how it has been confined almost exclusively to medical men, which shows how the vitality of the Nurses' Association has been sapped by medical domination. We are glad to observe a glimmer of light in Dr. Griffith's suggestion that the Amendments ("desired by the Royal British Nurses' Association") should be circulated to the members.

The American Nursing World.

ORGANISATION IN NEW YORK STATE.

Dear Editor,—Our long and somewhat stony path towards organisation in New York State for legislative purposes has now been traversed. We were very slow about it, because marked differences of opinion as to different points seemed, so far as a small group of members were concerned, likely to be brought to the point of antagonisms, and we wanted to go slowly, not to press or urge crises unnecessarily, and above all things not to seem to "rush" anything through before it could be understood and approved by the majority.

Had it not been for these delays we might have begun legislation a year sooner, but the time has not been wasted, for we have all been taught something in the process. We now have a good, simple, working constitution, an excellent set of officers, and a strong list of chairmen of committees, all of whom have received instructions for work, and at our next meeting we will hear from the Committee on Legislation—through Miss Allerton, of Rochester—what lines will be surest and best for our projected Bill.

We are now beginning a quiet and unobtrusive personal campaign, each member trying to reach those men and women of her acquaintance who will be helpful, explaining to them what we are working for, so that there will be in every locality some who have full understanding and sympathy with our movement. Later, when we have something tangible to present, we will enlarge this personal appeal to a public one.

We shall have the entire support of the Regents of New York State, whose control of educational matters has been explained for nurses' benefit in our *American Journal of Nursing* for May.

How much we shall try to get in our first Bill will no doubt be largely guided by their advice.

Of course we cannot hope to fix legally the highest standards of our good schools—we can only hope for a fair average at first. Legislation is naturally not intended to affect the good schools—it is designed for the bad ones. No doubt for many years our best schools will continue away ahead in advance of our legislation, but we aim at laying a support for our base; that secure, we may leave the upper layers to work out their own designs.

I am quite sure that we shall receive the support of the medical profession as a whole when we ask for it; which, as yet, we have not done, the time not seeming ready; though an occasional one here and there who has personal interest the other way may be unfriendly, it will hardly count for much.

Of course the weak point about all legislation of this character is, that, while it can certify the

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