

occur. In the large training schools, if the Matron has made a judicious selection of probationers, a sufficient number of candidates for promotion to the higher posts should always be available, but in the smaller schools, out of the limited number of pupils graduated it may well happen that no suitable person is forthcoming. In this case the Matron is well advised to place the welfare of the Institution before all other considerations and to recommend the appointment of a suitable candidate trained elsewhere.

#### THE QUESTION AT THE LAUNCESTON HOSPITAL.

We have been led to make these remarks on account of a discussion which took place a short time ago at a meeting of the Board of the Launceston Hospital, Tasmania, on the question, concerning a vacant appointment as Sister. The Lady Superintendent, Miss Milne, evinced both conscientiousness and courage by embodying in an admirable report her reasons for not recommending one of the nurses trained in the school for the vacant post, emphasising the very points which we have discussed above, of the need of executive and teaching ability; and her views had the support of the surgeon-superintendent of the hospital. Nevertheless, though we are glad to note that the Chairman stated that these officers had the confidence of the Board, yet their action was adversely criticized by an individual medical member.

#### THE CLAIMS OF RELATIVES.

It is not in Tasmania alone that a Superintendent of Nursing is placed in a difficult position in the performance of her duty. We frequently hear complaints at home that members of Boards of Guardians and Nursing Committees expect posts to be found for relatives of their own in the training schools under their control, and if the Matron honestly considers them unsuitable for promotion her own position becomes almost untenable. Under these circumstances there is only one just and wise course before Committees and Boards of Guardians—namely, to uphold the decision of their chief executive nursing officer. If she shows lack of judgment in the discharge of her duties, and the selection of probationers, her tenure of office should be terminated, but so long as she is responsible they should uphold her authority or lobbying and disloyalty will become rife, and the tone of the nursing school fall below zero.

## Annotations.

#### THE REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Board of Education has prepared a scheme for the Registration of Teachers, an announcement which should be regarded with as much satisfaction by the general public as by the teachers themselves. By the public because those who desire in the future to act as teachers will be required to prove not only that they know something of the subjects which they claim to teach, but also that they have some knowledge of the theory and practice of education, and by teachers because the quack will hereafter be recognized for what he is. Trained nurses may be inclined to wonder why the Registration of teachers has been brought about with so little difficulty while their own Registration which concerns the public even more nearly, for the skill or ignorance of a nurse frequently turns the scale of life and death, is still so difficult of achievement. They must however remember that a large proportion of teachers are men, who are enfranchised, and whose views on the question are therefore met with respect. In the same way, as many asylum attendants are men, their representations as to pensions will receive, no doubt, due consideration. It is noteworthy that the press in discussing the Registration of teachers seems to take it for granted that nurses have to produce proof of competency. This proves how little the public are alive to the dangers which beset them from the ignorant and incompetent.

#### DIRECTOR OF DIETS.

America so apt in phraseology has invented a new title for a trained female steward; she is called Director of Diets. Miss Harriette Gorton, a graduate of the Normal Domestic Science Course of Drexel Institute, at Philadelphia, has been appointed Director of Diets at the Manhattan State Hospital, at Ward's Island, New York City, where she has charge of the ordering, preparation and serving of food for about 2,400 persons. She will also instruct the nurses in invalid cookery.

This name is much more euphonious than cook-housekeeper or kitchen superintendent, and when we really begin to interest ourselves in hospital dietetics we shall do well to adopt it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)