

date has faced the subject, and realises something of what life demands, is a strong indication in favour.

Next comes the actual period of trial. I have always advocated a three months' trial instead of one, before engagement. Where, as in a few instances, this time is passed in a preliminary training-school, so much the better. Such a system seems to me ideal, although I confess I have not been so fortunate as to have personal experience of it.

But whereas the leading training-schools receive applications far in excess of the number of vacancies, matrons of the smaller hospitals complain of a lack of suitable candidates. They say that with the increased demand for nurses there is a corresponding scarcity of women of the highest type who volunteer, and that therefore they are compelled to put up with inferior material. It is too true that women of the kind we want are always in a minority, which is an argument for not narrowing the field of selection by the exclusion of any class. No limitation on class lines would give us true gentlewomen only. The result would be inclusion of many of the shoddy type, and exclusion of better candidates who might happen to be of inferior social rank.

I hope that some matrons of training-schools will give their views on this subject, in which case I anticipate a general agreement in favour of the candidate who is well-born and educated, other things being equal. Such women will readily obtain the preference, for they have manifest advantages. I only plead that no one shall be debarred from this work on the ground of social status only, but that it shall be a question of "character" not "class" for qualification.

Class prejudices are dying slowly. The tendency of the day is in favour of greater liberality, and the breaking-down of barriers of caste. And the recognition of character as the true standard of worth is gaining ground.

The Registration of Midwives.

The final meeting of the Association for Promoting Compulsory Registration of Midwives was held on Tuesday at Grosvenor Place, by permission of Lady Esther Smith. Lady Balfour of Burleigh (President) occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings said they met with the proud feeling that something had been accomplished, whether for better or worse, richer or poorer. She then moved the adoption of the report.

Sir Michael Foster, M.P., seconded, congratulating the Association on its success, and the report was adopted.

Having accomplished its object in securing the passing of the Bill on the subject, the Association was formally dissolved, and in its place the Executive Committee was formed into a Provisional Committee to consider means of organising the training and supply of midwives.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Organising Sub-committee was held at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., on Friday, July 18th.

Miss Clara Leo was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed and the somewhat lengthy minutes of the public meeting of May 30th were taken as read.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Secretary, reported that she had communicated with the ladies nominated as Vice-Presidents and members of the Executive Committee, and she was glad to report that the following had accepted the office of Vice-Presidents of the Society and had sent most kind letters, which were read:—The Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Muncaster, Lady Lumsden, Lady M'Laren, Lady Roberts-Austen, Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Mrs. Homan, L.S.B., Miss Eva M'Laren, Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson, Mrs. Myer, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Colonel Warburton, M.D., Mrs. Warburton, Mrs. Carmichael Stopes, Mrs. King Roberts, Miss Flora Stevenson, Miss F. Wilkinson, Miss Haldane, Miss Catherine Drew, Miss Cons, and Miss Constance S. Maynard. The list of the matrons who have accepted the invitations would be ready for presentation at the next meeting, as time as yet had not been given to communicate with all these ladies.

The Hon. Secretary also reported that she had had an interview with the President, Miss Louisa Stevenson, during her recent visit to London, who had gone through the correspondence and expressed herself much gratified that so many eminent women had already consented to give the Society their approval and support by becoming Vice-Presidents.

Letters were then read from several influential women, many of whom approved of the principle of State registration for trained nurses, and, whilst wishing the Society all success, said they had not time to undertake any fresh obligations, and made it an invariable rule never to give their names to any Society for which they were unable to work personally, the majority being already overpowered with public duties.

Many of these letters were of very great interest, proving that the writers realised the importance of the movement, and promising to keep themselves informed of its progress. Others stated that they were not sufficiently conversant with the subject to form an opinion at present, but hoped to give more time in the future to acquaint themselves with its principles.

Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, that great pioneer of women's suffrage, had written:—"Will you forgive me if I say that I greatly regret to see various groups of trained women, as in the case of the trained midwives and trained nurses, working hard to secure

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