

interviewed by the Board, but the qualifications for admission are decided by the full Board at their annual meeting, and the chairman, in choosing candidates, abides by these. When a candidate lives within a day's journey of any member of the committee she is sent for an interview, and a report is subsequently forwarded to the chairman by the interviewer. Subsequent experience has proved that the judgment formed in these interviews has been singularly correct.

A course which has been specially prepared to meet the needs of nurses is that by Professor Wood on Applied Anatomy and Physiology, which has been found most helpful. The students also have the advantage of being taught how to teach. They are required to give lessons to their fellow students, and both teacher and class afterwards comment on and criticise the subject matter of the lesson and the method of teaching.

The opportunities which the students have for study are not confined to the college lectures; by the kindness of the Charity Organisation Society, they are able to avail themselves of opportunities for sociologic study in New York.

The students have so far expressed themselves as finding the benefit of the course to them in their subsequent careers, and no doubt, as experience proves what is most helpful, it will be made even more useful.

"Now, say most of the course, and not much about me," was Miss Banfield's parting injunction. I hope I have obeyed.

MARGARET BREAY.

### The International Council of Nurses.

We have remarked before how extraordinary it is that in every country where trained nursing has arrived at the dignity of professional work, one or more leaders have come forward to help to organise nurses on a professional basis. Thus in Germany we learn that Fraulein Hedwig von Schlichting, the most able Lady Superintendent of the great Eppendorfer Hospital at Hamburg, has resigned that honourable position so that she may take a more active part in nursing organisation. During her tenure of office at the Eppendorfer Hospital Fraulein von Schlichting founded a Federation of German Nurses, but experienced so many difficulties and so much opposition from the professors and medical officers of that State institution that she determined to resign, which she has done, so that she may devote her whole time to the service of German nurses. Her great experience both as nurse and superintendent, her wide knowledge of the management of hospitals and their conditions, her personal acquaintance with numbers of medical men and hospital superintendents, and the high estimation in which she is held by all who know and appreciate her progressive work, augur well for the success of the noble object she has at heart—the Professional Organisation and Federation of German Nurses. Fraulein von Schlichting is Hon. Vice-President for Germany of the International Council of Nurses.

### Nursing in Scottish Poorhouses

By Miss E. S. HALDANE.

The nursing of sick inmates of workhouses in England and Ireland has been a topic of such constant discussion that it has seemed strange that Scotland has not in this very important matter received greater attention. Possibly this may be due to the comparatively small number of paupers which is in Scotland receiving indoor relief, and partly because there is a general supposition (arising, perhaps, from conditions of former days) that a kindlier and more humane administration of Poor Law relief obtains in the northern portion of the United Kingdom. In any case, however, the Scottish Local Government Board has not found itself able to put an end to the greatest evil of all in the management of sick paupers, which is their being handed over to the tender mercies of their fellow-paupers, to whom they have to look for what help and succour they can get. England and Ireland have issued Orders through their Local Government Boards prohibiting pauper nursing; in Scotland this has still to come.

In a circular issued by the Board of Supervision in 1879 a circular was issued to House Committees pointing out the defects in the nursing of the sick inmates. The main defects were: (1) The non-employment of trained nurses; and (2) the employment of untrained pauper nurses. The Board "suggested":—

1. That matrons should be required to undergo a three months' hospital training.
2. That where the average number of sick amounts to twenty, there should be a "trained assistant" in addition to the matron, and, where the number exceeds forty, two assistant nurses.
3. When it exceeds sixty, there should be a trained head nurse with assistants in the same proportion as above.
4. Where three or more nurses are employed, one-third of the number may be untrained persons, if able to read and write and if engaged by the year.

In 1880 the Board issued rules and regulations for the management of hospitals and infirmaries in poorhouses where a trained head nurse is employed.

1. The matron shall in this case have no jurisdiction within the hospital, nor exercise authority therein, nor be responsible for its cleanliness or the condition of patients, bedding, and clothing.
2. The trained head nurse shall bear the same relation to the governor as the matron does, in regard to the ordinary inmates. She is to be guided in the discharge of her duties by the rules of the Board of Supervision for the management of poorhouses.
3. She shall superintend the nurses employed in the hospital, suspending and reporting them to the governor if necessary.
4. She shall have charge of the hospital property and prevent waste, &c.
5. She shall take charge of all

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