

antagonism will be raised between the two professions which ought to work harmoniously together.

I shall, therefore, keep to my suggestion regarding the constitution of the Board; but I should like to have seen some suggestions as to how the Board should be appointed; as no one has had the temerity to enter upon this exceedingly controversial point, I suppose I must make my suggestion and again bear the brunt of criticism.

In the formation of this Board the first question to decide is: Whether it is advisable to form a Board otherwise than by Act of Parliament?

My own opinion is that it would not be advisable, because, as it would not be imperative for all training-schools to recognise its authority, though it would probably be to their disadvantage if they did not do so, certain schools would persist in giving certificates to nurses as heretofore, and the attempt to remedy the present chaotic state would be frustrated.

Again, all sorts of impediments would be put in the Board's way, in its endeavours to carry out these reforms, by maliciously-disposed people, who work with the sole intention of wrecking any scheme for the good of others, simply because they themselves are ignorant, and often imagine they have been slighted in some way or another—I am sorry to say that there are many of these badly-disposed people about—and if the Board had not an Act to fall back upon, so as to give these people the go-by, I am afraid its efforts would be for the most part in vain.

I think that it would be best for some society, as, for instance, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, to get a provisional Bill drawn up, and then put it in the hands of some Member or Members of Parliament, and get them, if possible, to push it, in order that it might the sooner become law.

I think my rewritten scheme after full discussion might act as the basis on which to found such a Bill.

I should here just like to say a few words concerning the powers of the Board.

I have suggested that the Board should have all control with regard to the registration and the granting of certificates to nurses. Besides these two principal powers the Board would, of course, have subsidiary powers arising out of them.

In the first place, with regard to registration

At the present time there are several hundred fully-trained nurses who will have to be placed on the register without passing the examinations as set down below, and it will be necessary for the Board to enrol these, after the payment of a small fee, for these two important reasons:—

First, that it would never do to insist that Matrons, &c., should be required to pass the new examinations in order to be registered and certificated, they being at the present time certificated, and therefore entitled to registration.

Secondly, that the amount of money resulting from the registration fee would form a commencement of the difficult financial question.

As to the qualifications of the nurse to be thus summarily registered, I leave that to the Board to decide, as well as the amount of the registration fee.

The Board will have to formulate rules that every registered nurse will have to observe, and if these are broken the Board should have the power to erase the

Nurse's name from the register, and deprive her of her qualifications.

The Board will have to appoint examiners, &c., whose expenses will have to be defrayed out of the moneys arising from the various fees, &c.

The Examinations must now be considered.

I think it will perhaps be better to adopt a classification of the subjects for examination on the lines laid down by Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.

The subjects to be as follows:—

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS.

1. Medical Nursing.
2. Surgical and Gynæcological Nursing.

SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

3. Midwifery and Maternity Nursing.
4. Mental Nursing.
5. The Nursing of Infectious Diseases.
6. Massage.

By compulsory subjects I mean those in which a nurse must pass examinations in order to gain the certificate of qualification and in order to be registered, and in which she must pass before she can enter for the examination in any one of the special subjects.

I fail to see why Gynæcological Nursing should require a separate examination, for to my mind the subject, apart from Medical and Surgical Nursing, is not large enough from a nursing standpoint to admit of it, and by making examinations in such small subjects a constant drain is made on the nurse's pocket, which is not warranted to stand it.

Gynæcological Nursing should be included in the compulsory subjects. The nurses' schedule in surgical nursing should state that the nurse has had at least three months' work in the Gynæcological ward, and one or two questions in the written surgical nursing examination should be on Gynæcological nursing; the same to apply to the oral examination.

The examinations in subjects 1, 2, and 3 to be held four times a year, in subjects 4, 5, and 6 twice a year. The first three subjects appear to my mind as those which will have the greater number of candidates, so I consider that it will be necessary to hold the examinations as frequently as I suggest; but the latter three, being special subjects, will not have so many candidates, and therefore there will be less frequent need of examinations.

I suggest that the compulsory subjects may, if desired, be taken separately, after the expiration of the three years' training at a Major school, as it is for many candidates a much easier way of passing an examination; at Minor schools the nurse, after she has done two years' training in one compulsory subject, may enter for that examination; she then, of course, has to spend another two years' training at the other subjects, so what may appear at first sight an advantage in Minor schools over the Major will on careful thought be found not to be the case.

The examinations should be both written and oral, in order that the candidates' knowledge may be tested as much as possible.

The examinations to be held in various centres throughout the country on the same day and at the same hour. The first part of this suggestion is made so that the expenses to nurses from a distance shall be lessened as far as possible; the latter part is simply

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