

ing in medical work and two years' training in surgical work at Minor Schools.

2. That she has done at least three months' work in the gynæcological ward.

3. That she has held the post of Staff or Charge Nurse for at least one year, that is, she has had partial control of a ward with a nurse or nurses under her.

4. That she has attended a course of lectures and practical instruction in the subjects, and has satisfactorily carried out her duties in the wards.

5. That she has done both day and night duty.

6. That she has reached twenty-three years of age.

A separate schedule is required for each subject. The schedule which is to be filled up before a nurse can take the examination in subject 3 must state:—

1. That she has seen at least twenty labours, attended at least five herself under qualified supervision, and also nursed at least twenty patients for ten days following confinement.

2. That she has nursed at least ten patients during five nights following confinement.

3. That the training has extended at least over six months.

4. That she has received lectures and practical instruction in the subject.

5. That she is "qualified."

The schedule which is to be filled up before a nurse can take the examination in subject 4 must state:—

1. That the nurse has had at least two years' work at an Institution for the Insane, recognised by the Board.

2. That she has held the post of Staff or Charge Nurse for at least six months.

3. That she has attended a course of lectures and practical instruction in the subject.

4. That she has done both day and night duty.

5. That she is "qualified."

The schedule which is to be filled up before a nurse can take the examination in subject 5 must state:—

1. That the nurse has had at least one year's work at an Infectious Hospital recognised by the Board.

2. That she has held the post of Staff or Charge Nurse for at least three months.

3. That she has attended lectures and practical instruction in the subject.

4. That she has done both day and night duty.

5. That she is "qualified."

The schedule which is to be filled up before a nurse can take the examination in subject 6 must state:—

1. That the nurse has had three months' practical instruction, with a course of lectures, in the subject, under an instructress recognised by the Board.

2. That she is "qualified."

## The Question of the Hour.

When should the education of a nurse begin? The question is at present engaging considerable attention, and several hospitals—the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, the London, and Guy's—have made experiments in preliminary courses, which can now be no longer considered tentative, but have in each case been found of proved benefit to pupil and institution alike.

But, though a step in the right direction, it is impossible that a few weeks' special instruction prior to entering the wards of a hospital for practical work are all that is necessary if the best results are to be attained. Heads of training-schools still complain of the overwhelming and increasing amount of instruction to be crowded into the three years' course, and pupils, bewildered with theoretical instruction, with the novel domestic work, and the responsible duties in relation to the sick which are required of them, not unfrequently break down under the strain, and the probability is greatest in precisely those pupils whom it is most desirable to retain, namely, those of conscientious, sensitive, and finely-balanced temperament. Who is to blame? So long as the majority of training-schools demand little or no evidence of general education they cannot be wholly exonerated from responsibility. The direct result of this lack of any educational standard in the nursing world is that girls of bright intelligence and good education gravitate to the professions of medicine and teaching, to the Civil Service, to secretarial and other similar work, while for the member of a family who shows no conspicuous ability for any particular walk in life the nursing world is considered to afford a promising opening. So superintendents of training-schools are on all sides complaining that the quality of the "raw material" which is available for training is deteriorating, with the result that the finished product is deteriorating also.

But it is not the nurse-training schools which are primarily to blame. To place the responsibility on the right shoulders we must go further back, that is, to the time when the embryo pupil-nurse is still at school.

How many parents take the education of their girls seriously? Thanks to the efforts of educationalists, more than to the demands of parents, many high schools for girls now afford cheap and excellent educational facilities. But, still, the education a girl receives is determined more by the exigencies of a local examination and the decision of the head mistress as to how many, and which, subjects she must take up in order to be able to obtain a sufficient number of marks to come out in an honours class, and so bring credit upon her teacher, than by any thought of her subsequent career.

In the case of a boy, on the contrary, by the

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