

But it behoves nurses to be up and doing to prevent the continuance of a condition of things so dangerous to the public welfare. There is no doubt, also, that nurses themselves are suffering from the growing public distrust of the profession as a whole. Those who are working in hospitals, and under the protection of public institutions, can scarcely estimate the aversion felt by many members of the public to admitting trained nurses into their houses. This may seem to those who know only the institutional side of nursing very unjust, but it must be remembered that the public judge the profession of nursing, not by its members working in hospitals, with whose work and conduct they are unacquainted, but by the women who act as private nurses. Many of these have had no training worthy of the name, and by their professional ignorance and personal ill-behaviour bring into discredit a profession with which, if properly organised, they could claim no connection.

We ask you, Matrons and nurses, how long are you going to linger in this *galère*?

Annotations.

QUALIFIED NURSES.

We are glad to note that the recommendation of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to inquire into the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses in relation to the recognition and certification of a class of nurses, to be known as "qualified nurses" by the Local Government Board, after one year's training in a minor training-school, is arousing vigorous protest in the nursing world. We have no hesitation in saying that no suggestion so detrimental to the welfare of the sick in Poor Law Infirmaries, or to the standard of nursing education throughout the country, has been made for many years, and it could only have originated with persons who have no conception as to what is involved in the term "qualified nurse." To suggest that after the limited and inadequate experience of a year's training in the sick wards of a workhouse, or small workhouse infirmary, a probationer should go out into the world armed with a certificate as a "qualified nurse," under the authority of a Government Department, is so outrageous a proposition that we cannot believe it will be adopted. At the same time it is well to emphasise the moral that these gross mistakes would be avoided if in dealing with nursing

matters the persons most competent to advise the Government were not, except in the case of the Military Nursing Service, deliberately and systematically ignored. Had a Superintendent of Nursing been appointed a member of this Departmental Committee, such a suggestion could never have marred the pages of a Report which, in many respects, shows a painstaking effort to deal with a pressing problem. We wonder when Cabinet Ministers will appreciate at their real value, or at any value at all, the expert services of women, and so avoid the blunders inevitable when these are ignored.

We congratulate the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association on its immediate and energetic organisation of a protest to the recommendation. We notice also on the agenda of the next meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland a strong resolution dealing with the same subject, which we do not doubt will be carried unanimously. The carrying into effect of this outrageous recommendation must be stopped at all costs.

HOSPITAL REFORM IN PARIS.

It is well known that the prevailing conditions in the hospitals of Paris call for urgent reform, and we are therefore glad that M. Mesureur, the new head of the Assistance Publique, has succeeded in obtaining from the Municipal Council the vote of a loan of £1,600,000 to carry out the reorganisation scheme which he proposes to inaugurate, and which includes the sale of sites in the heart of the city and removal to the suburbs at the public expense. The first hospital which it is proposed to remove is the Hospital de la Pitié, which provides accommodation for 1,000 persons. In its place a number of brick pavilions, accommodating a maximum of fifty patients each, will be built either in the suburbs or on the fortifications south of Paris.

This is good; but those who remember the articles which we published in review of Dr. Anna Hamilton's prize thesis on nursing in France will realise that if the care of the sick in Paris hospitals is to be adequately provided for, the nursing service must be drastically reorganised. The amount of phthisis amongst patients and nurses would alone point to its inefficiency, and many other proofs to the same effect are forthcoming. We hope, therefore, that M. Mesureur will obtain information from Superintendents of Nursing in other countries as to the best methods of nurse training.

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