

if whilst feeding the child, and, being graduated, the exact amount of food taken can easily be reckoned.

It is wise to always have two bottles and teats for alternate use, to frequently boil them, to keep them between meals in a basin of clean cold water, and to clean them immediately after use. The careful carrying out of these instructions will go far towards preventing many unpleasant and even dangerous infantile disorders.

State Registration at the Chelsea Infirmary.

A most successful meeting was held last week at the Chelsea Infirmary, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick advocated the principle of State Registration for Trained Nurses. The Matron, Miss Barton, presided, and besides all the members of the nursing staff who could be spared from the wards, and their guests, Dr. Horn and Dr. Binckes, two of the medical officers of the hospital, formed part of an audience which throughout the proceedings showed a most interested and intelligent comprehension of the question.

Miss Barton opened the proceedings by a few graceful words of welcome, and then invited Mrs. Fenwick to speak.

Mrs. Fenwick said that it was with much pleasure that she responded to the invitation. She took as the text of her address the benefit which the State Registration of Nurses would confer on nurses, medical practitioners, and the public.

The gain to the public by the establishment of a minimum curriculum of education, and by the registration of all duly-qualified nurses, would, she said, be immense. At present it had no means of ascertaining authoritatively whether a woman had received the training which qualified her to undertake responsible nursing duties. The same information would also be at the disposal of, and a practical benefit to, the profession of medicine.

But the measure, when carried, would be of the greatest importance and benefit to nurses themselves. Then the inequalities of training would be abolished, and, by the establishment of a minimum standard to which all must attain, the nurse who had conscientiously qualified herself by a three years' course of study would not find herself competing after certification on equal terms with women with only a few months' special training, who did not hesitate to nurse any case of critical illness. The speaker went on to say that the protected workers in well-organised hospitals and infirmaries could scarcely estimate the harm done to their profession as a whole by the present lack of organisation. It must be remembered that the public do not judge trained nurses, as a body, by the skilled workers in institutions, but by private nurses.

Private nursing was one of the most important branches of nursing work, and, in the view of the speaker, the private nurse, who was placed in positions of great responsibility, and often, except for a few minutes in the twenty-four hours, was miles away from medical assistance, should be one of the most highly-trained members of the profession. In point of fact, however,

while there were many competent private nurses, this branch of nursing was more adopted by the unfit than any other, and the public, in consequence, was beginning to be very timorous of admitting private nurses to its houses. The feeling of distrust which was undoubtedly beginning to permeate the public mind was accentuated by the misdoing of the crop of criminals whose actions had recently received considerable attention in the public Press, and, while there was no evidence to prove that they were trained nurses, yet as there was no official Register of Nurses it was impossible for the nursing profession to repudiate responsibility for the doings of these persons. On behalf of a hard-working and honourable profession she claimed that this was most unjust.

In reviewing the history of the Registration movement to the present date, Mrs. Fenwick said that the outlook had never been so favourable as at present. In Cape Colony and New Zealand it was an accomplished fact. Since the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo the United States had been seething with the question, and she thought that before many years were past all the more progressive States would have enforced it, and in this country many influential Matrons, who formerly were averse to the movement, were now convinced of its desirability.

Following on the procedure usual in the organisation of other professions, the minimum standard enforced would at first not be prohibitive, but, once we had a standard, no doubt, like that of the medical profession, it would be raised from time to time. No one need fear that any injustice would be done to reputable nurses who had been at work for years. It would be contrary to all precedent in this country to make any Act of Parliament retrospective.

Another point put forward by the speaker was the need for the appointment of direct representatives of nurses themselves on the Nursing Council which would be called into existence to control the education and discipline of registered nurses, and nurses would need to consider the responsibility of their vote in this connection. With regard to penal legislation, she pointed out that the registration of trained nurses would not prevent untrained persons from nursing, but such persons would then be known as amateurs. The only calling in connection with which penal clauses had been passed was, she believed, that of midwifery, though she rather thought there was some desire for their adoption in connection with medicine. Referring to the vexed question of the registration of character, the speaker pointed out that the training-schools required irreproachable references before accepting candidates as probationers, and these probationers were under daily observation for three years. She saw no reason to suppose that these women would be untrue to the traditions of a lifetime immediately their names were entered on a Register. But human nature was frail, and if occasional cases of moral delinquency did occur, no doubt the Nursing Council would have disciplinary power to deal with them. She thought the fact that they belonged to a recognised body, and had a high standard placed before them by their Governing Body, would be an immense help to isolated workers. They all knew the strength which came from association.

At the conclusion of her speech, Mrs. Fenwick answered various questions addressed to her by those present. Miss Barton opened the debate by referring

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