

## The Progress of State Registration.

The admirable report presented by Dr. MacGregor, Inspector-General of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions, New Zealand, to the Hon. the Minister for Public Works, and presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by command of His Excellency, is of great interest to nurses, as it contains an official report on the working of the Nurses' Registration Act. In this connection Dr. MacGregor says:—

"The Nurses' Registration Act has now been in force for a year and a-half, and is working smoothly. There are 320 names of nurses on the Register. Twenty-nine nurses entered as candidates for the examination held in May last, and twenty-seven of these passed and are duly registered. Such an Act is necessary owing to the advance of scientific surgery and progress of medical knowledge. It protects medical men and also the public from the increasing number of unqualified women who pose as nurses, and who too often prove a real danger in critical illness and in operations. It is interesting to note that within the last few months five of the American States—North Carolina, New York, Illinois, Virginia, and New Jersey—have followed the lead of this colony, and passed Acts for the State Registration of duly qualified nurses. The Nurses' Registration Act of New Zealand uses no compulsion, except that of enlightened self-interest on the part of the nurses themselves, and it is becoming daily more apparent that by the silent pressure of this law the nursing profession of New Zealand will be effectively organised. The whole working of it has been entrusted to Mrs. Grace Neill, and the tact and skill by which she has carried out all the arrangements, often complicated and difficult, as regards the examinations, have earned my highest appreciation and gratitude. These bi-annual examinations have been moulded on the system of the New Zealand University. The examiners have no knowledge of the name nor hospital of the candidates whose papers they are examining, and great care has been taken in selecting as examiners medical men who have had special knowledge of the training of nurses. The examination in practical work of each nurse is undertaken by a medical man and a registered nurse jointly."

This report is valuable as proving the effect of a system of Registration of trained nurses in affording protection to medical men and the public from the danger of ignorant nursing. We have frequently pointed out that this would be the result of a Registration Act, and it is satisfactory to know on such good authority that it has been proved to be so in actual working.

## Practical Points.

Writing in the *American Journal of Nursing* on "A Year's Work for the Children in New York Schools," Miss Lina L. Rogers outlines the system laid down by the Boards of Health and Education:—

Each disease has its own treatment outlined by the Department of Health, which is followed without variation unless the Medical Inspector prescribes some special treatment. Following are the diseases and their treatment, as shown by the card of instruction given to each nurse:—

### "INSTRUCTIONS TO NURSES.

"The following methods will hereafter be used in treating children sent to the nurse by the Medical Inspector of Schools.

"**PEDICULOSIS.**—Saturate head and hair with equal parts kerosene and sweet-oil; next day wash with solution of potassium carbonate (one teaspoonful to one quart of water), followed by soap and water. To remove 'nits,' use *hot* vinegar.

"**FAVUS—RINGWORM OF SCALP.**—*Mild cases:* Scrub with tincture green soap; epilate; cover with flexible collodion. *Severe cases:* Scrub with tincture green soap; epilate; paint with tincture iodine and cover with flexible collodion.

"**RINGWORM OF FACE AND BODY.**—Wash with tincture green soap and cover with flexible collodion.

"**SCABIES.**—Scrub with tincture green soap; apply sulphur ointment.

"**IMPETIGO.**—Remove crusts with tincture green soap; apply white precipitate ointment (ammon. hydrarg.).

"**MOLLUSCUM CONTAGIOSUM.**—Express contents; apply tincture iodine on cotton toothpick probe.

"**CONJUNCTIVITIS.**—Irrigate with solution of boric acid."

By means of the card system now in use it is almost impossible for the children to be neglected if everyone does his duty. The diseases are arranged in code form, each disease having its own particular number. These numbers are placed on an index card, which also has dates, when ordered under treatment, when under treatment, exclusion, readmission, and also the class and room number and school. This is signed by the Medical Inspector and left on file for the use of those requiring this information. The routine inspection is made once a week by the doctor, who goes into the class-room, stands with his back to a window, and as the children pass before him he looks at the eyes, throat, hands, and hair of each individually. On other days at an appointed time he visits the school, and those who have returned after an absence of several days, or any who have the slightest indication of any contagious disease, or who have returned after being excluded by the doctor, are sent to him. Those who can be cared for by the nurse are sent at once to her, the others being either returned to their class-rooms or sent home, as the case demands.

During the 120 school days from January until June, when vacation began, the number of treatments given was 135,854, there being 23,191 children with different diseases. To show from what children suffer most I will quote a few figures for the borough of Manhattan alone, where there are sixteen nurses:—Contagious eye diseases, 65,987; pediculosis, 55,631; ringworm, 60,057; eczema, 2,285; scabies, 163; miscellaneous,

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