

I could never have attempted to propose English nurses to French hospitals. I hope that many will come forward and that good practical English training will be joined to the good theoretical French teaching, and that satisfactory nurses will thus be made.

Up to the present time instruction has not been given to those who did the ward work, either because they objected to it (nuns), or were too ignorant to understand (infirmiers and infirmières). Nursing lectures, on the other hand, were plentifully given to ladies who did not mean to work in hospitals, nor even to do private nursing, only meaning to come forward if war broke out, as Red Cross nurses. Training was unheard of.

In this nursing school (Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux) practical and theoretical teaching go hand in hand, and marks are given for behaviour in the wards, moral qualities and capability in practical nursing. A practical examination, considered as the most important, takes place, and nurses who have not been able to pass it satisfactorily are not admitted to pass the theoretical one.

I consider that if this plan were in general use there would never have been such an opposition to State Registration. Of course, this system obliges the hospital authorities to allow each probationer an equal chance of learning all that can be learnt in the hospital—which does put a great deal more work upon those who have to teach constantly! But is not this a duty if you call a place a school? We do not pay any probationers, considering them all pupils. Some are admitted free of charge through scholarships, and some pay for their instruction, just as students would in a school of medicine.

The St. André Hospital nursing school is adopting my principles, and I do my best to make the public understand the principles of real training for nurses.

I wish all success to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, and much regret not having been able to attend to it.

### The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death of Miss Mary Wade, Superintendent of the Hamilton Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which took place on August 25th, after a very short illness.

Miss Wade entered the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in April, 1890, and, after her training, joined the Queen's Nurses in the District Home in Edinburgh in September, 1893. In March, 1894, she was appointed Queen's Nurse at Peebles, where she worked till September, 1899, when she was transferred to the post which she held until her death. Her whole nursing career was characterised by an intense love of her work and of her patients, and a shrinking from any publicity or praise, which makes it difficult to convey an adequate impression of her. Both at Peebles and Hamilton she was deservedly beloved by her patients and respected by all. She was only ill for ten days, and died of an illness the result of a chill caught in the discharge of her duty. Perhaps most nurses, could they choose, would wish to die at their posts.

### Progress of State Registration.

The Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses, together with the proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix, has been issued as a Blue Book (281), and may be obtained through any bookseller, or directly from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., price 1s. The Report alone, to which the attention of readers of this journal has previously been directed, is obtainable through the same sources, price 1d.

The Committee have recommended that a Committee be appointed in the next Session of Parliament to continue the Inquiry. We may assume, therefore, that this will be done, and it behoves all nurses to consider if they can give evidence which will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

A well-attended meeting of nurses, held in Edinburgh on Tuesday last, was addressed by Miss Isla Stewart on the subject of Registration. We hope to refer again to this meeting in our next issue.

An address given to the Maryland State Association of Nurses, at Baltimore, U.S.A., by the Honourable Henry D. Harlan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is of great interest to those who are working for State Registration in this country, as it tersely puts the legal aspect of the question in a convincing form. Judge Harlan pointed out that the object of State Registration is not to take away from any person the right to do nursing, to care for the sick or to minister to the suffering, either from motives of love, charity, or as a means of gaining an honest livelihood. He then said: It is very important in my judgment—indeed, it is vital to the success of your plans—to emphasise this fact. What you desire is to give a legal status to the professional nurse, to provide how this status is to be acquired, and to prevent incompetent and unskilful persons from occupying this status, or from pretending to have it.

This object is to be accomplished by establishing a standard of the qualifications that should be possessed by one who should be permitted to become entitled to practise as a trained nurse, and to provide through a competent State agency or examining board for the ascertainment, registration, and certification of all who possess these qualifications. Those who are certified will go forth like the genuine coin which the Government has stamped with its own guarantee of quality and value, duly accredited to the public, and particularly to that part of the public most needing their services, as trained nurses properly qualified, and may lawfully hold themselves out to the community as such.

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