

physical or mental improvement. They must understand the duties and powers of sanitary inspector, school board visitor, relieving officer, and "cruelty man," and assist them as far as they can by giving timely information of any abuses of the law. They must also be on good terms with the ministers of every religion, and, checking all feeling of intolerance, put their patients in communication with priest, rabbi, pastor, or clergyman, according to the faith in which they profess to have been brought up.

The probationer must be trained to "take her own observations," and ask as few direct questions as possible—in the first place, because she may easily give offence, and, in the second place, because, without any evil intent, the answers are so likely to be incorrect or misleading.

Compelled on one occasion to ask a patient his religion in order to enter it on my books, I received the reply, "Sooper, I'm same as yerself. I goes about doin' good to everybody, and no harm to meself." He was a peculiarly villainous man, but, the line of conduct that he claimed for us both is by no means despicable.

(To be continued.)

Hospitals and Medical Schools.

We regret that we have not space to publish in full the interesting correspondence between the Hon. Stephen Coleridge and Mr. Hugh C. Smith, Chairman of King Edward's Hospital Fund, on "Hospitals and Medical Schools." The gist of the matter is this, that since the establishment of the King's Fund the amount of money diverted in out-and-out grants from the general funds of London hospitals to their medical schools has amounted to thousands of pounds, while there is an ever-increasing appropriation of what are known as "loans" to the same object, and, in the case of the London Hospital, the amount placed to the credit of the "sports' ground" within the last few years has been £6,170 18s. 11d.

How far it is legitimate to subsidise medical education from hospital funds on account of benefits accruing to the sick is a debatable question; but we do not believe that anyone can justify the diversion of funds subscribed for the relief of the sick poor to the maintenance of sports' grounds for medical students.

In our view the mistake in organising medical education lies in maintaining at a loss twelve small schools instead of one central establishment, which could be made not only self-supporting but highly efficient, as it would command the best teaching power in the metropolis. We are glad that, as we report in another column, a committee has been appointed to consider the question of contributions by hospital authorities towards medical education.

The Matrons' Council.



The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held on Friday, October 28th, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. The President, Miss Isla Stewart, was in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary presented the following:—

REPORT.

Since the last meeting of the Matrons' Council British nurses have had the opportunity of showing some hospitality to their American colleagues who passed through London on their way to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Berlin. The entertainment committee consisted of the majority of those who were present from this country at the Nursing Congress at Buffalo, U.S.A., in 1901, as well as of Miss Peter, General Superintendent of the Q.V.J.I. Mrs. Walter Spencer acted as Hon. Secretary, and most ably carried out the arrangements. On the morning of Monday, June 6th, the visitors, accompanied by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Amy Hughes, and Mrs. Walter Spencer, were taken in brakes to see some of the chief sights of London. The whole party subsequently lunched at St. Andrew's House, on the kind invitation of Miss Debenham, and in the evening of the same day dined at the Criterion Restaurant, Miss Isla Stewart presiding.

The International Congress of Women and the International Council of Nurses met in Berlin in June last. The Matrons' Council was well represented, the President, five of the six Vice-Presidents, nine members, and the Hon. Secretary being present.

At the meeting of the International Council of Nurses the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

Whereas, The disorder existing to-day in nursing conditions is due chiefly to inequalities of training and differing educational standards; and

Whereas, The serious and responsible work of a nurse demands not only excellent moral qualities, but also the trained intelligence and cultured mind of the well-educated woman; and

Whereas, The principle of Registration by the State is now generally conceded as safeguarding the public health, and as promoting a more thorough education of nurses; now therefore be it

Resolved: That every person assuming the position of a Trained Nurse should give proof of the following minimum preparation for such work:—

- (a) A good general education.
- (b) A preliminary course in domestic science, elementary anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, materia medica, and technical preparation for ward work.
- (c) Three complete years of practical work in hospital wards under qualified instructors.

And be it further

Resolved: That this minimum preparation should

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