

at Blackwall, stating that the Local Government Board had notified that they did not feel justified in sanctioning the appointment of a Staff Nurse, on the ground of her age, which was only nineteen. As the Medical Officer (Dr. Spurrell) and the Matron had spoken highly of the qualifications of the nurse, the Committee recommended that a report to this effect be sent to the Local Government Board, asking them to reconsider the question. This was agreed to. Mr. Councillor Bellsham, Acting Chairman of the Committee, said they had several probationers under twenty-one.

The subject is of importance, because the clause in the Bill drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which places the lowest limit for registration at "at least twenty-one years of age," has occasioned much criticism. It is quite apparent that the age of probationers will always rest with the schools, because if they do not accept probationers of eighteen for training they cannot present themselves at twenty-one for examination. The Bill does not say that it is desirable to register at twenty-one, but that below this limit no one can be registered. But as the necessity becomes more incumbent upon girls to support themselves, it is natural that they should wish as soon as they are of an age to earn their living to adopt the profession of their choice. It is not the tenderly-nurtured "children" who will apply for training at this age, but girls to whom life is a stern reality, and upon whom self-support is incumbent.

The Nottingham and Notts Private Nursing Association has long been established in the city. Quite recently it has moved into a very commodious house in Regent Street, over which Miss Duncan, the courteous Lady Superintendent, was good enough to conduct us a few days ago. The house appeared an ideal one for the purpose, a beautiful sitting-room overlooking the garden being allotted to the nurses, and delightful quarters provided for the Lady Superintendent. The bed-rooms are very light and spacious and most cheerfully decorated.

This Association is worked by a Committee, the staff numbering about forty, at present. Three years' training is demanded, and the rules and regulations appeared sensible and just. Many nurses, especially in the country where fees are not quite so high as in London, prefer to work in community and receive a definite salary, board, lodging, and other necessaries; and, indeed, there is much to be said for the system, so long as the Committee insist upon the staff holding a certificate of three years' training from a good hospital, and, if profits permit, encourage good work by paying the nurses a percentage if they earn more than a certain sum a year.

In the past, difficulties have arisen in the private

nursing world by lay committees omitting to demand good credentials from nurses they employ, and failing to encourage the best by giving one dead level of salary, whether the individual nurse earned much or little. Miss Duncan appears fully alive to the economics of nursing, and we feel sure under her bright and tactful rule private nursing in Nottingham will soon attain a high level.

During our visit to Nottingham we had the pleasure of seeing over the magnificent new infirmary at Bagthorpe, and by the invitation of Miss Dwight of speaking on State Registration to the nursing staff, so many of whom are earnest members of the Society for State Registration. We hope to refer at length to this pleasurable visit next week.

Speaking at Manchester last week on behalf of the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor Nursing Institution, Mr. W. J. Galloway, M.P., eulogised the work of the Society, which, he said, ministered to five districts, each of which has a Home in its centre, with a resident staff of a Matron and twelve nurses. This staff, however, was inadequate. The latest return showed that the number of patients who had received their care was 10,388, and that the visits paid had been 239,000. He claimed special support for it on the ground that it only sent out trained nurses, which indeed constitutes a strong claim on behalf of any District Nursing Association.

The question of night nursing in small work-house infirmaries is always a difficult one and a very vexed one. Many Guardians like those at Northallerton seem to be of opinion that if there are only a few patients one nurse can be responsible for them all the twenty-four hours round. It is astonishing that guardians, many of whom are employers of labour, or themselves members of Trades Unions, should wish to work any woman day and night, or expect her to be efficient under such circumstances. The practice is one which should be put down by law.

The residents at St. Margaret's Bay have been considerably perturbed by the appearance of a ghost which, so far, has escaped detection by all the amateur detectives of Dover and the neighbourhood. Recently, a nurse went into one of the shops in the village, and, whilst there, inquired with much surprise, "What is the matter with the people in this place? As I came down the street several of them looked scared and bolted." The tradesman was at a loss to account for this, until he noticed the nurse was dressed in white, and explained the ghost scare, and the fact that the "mystery" is always seen in white.

At a recent concert given at Wisbech, in aid of the Wisbech and District Nursing Association,

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