

spite of the directions being headed, "to boil comfrey seeds," and as a more flagrant example of going back upon her word, there is a "liquor for a child that has the thrush." What will modern nurses think of the directions, which run:—"Take half a pint of spring water, a knob of double-refined sugar, a very little bit of alum, beat it well together with the yolk of an egg, then beat it in a large spoonful of the juice of sage, tie a rag to the end of a stick, dip it in this liquor, and often clean the mouth. Give the child overnight one drop of laudanum, and the next day proper phisick, washing the mouth often with this liquor?"

The Nurses' Settlement.

Princess Christian has opened a small home for retired nurses which has been founded by the Royal British Nurses' Association in Clapton Square, Hackney. The object is to provide house-room for aged nurses who may have, from pensions or other sources of income, seven to fourteen shillings a week, so as to keep themselves in food and clothing, but who lack a place of residence. There is accommodation for ten or twelve nurses; each will have a room (fitted with a cooking range), which, in the words of Miss Hobbs, the secretary, will be "her own little castle." A nominal rent of one penny a week is charged for the room.

It is to be hoped few worthy old nurses, after a laborious life, have but one shilling a day on which to provide food, clothing, fire, light, and washing. It is a terrible indictment on the industrial condition of nurses in this country if many are in such sore straits.

Queen's Nurses in Scotland.

Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll recently visited the Scottish District Training Home of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses at 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. The party was received by Lord Kinross, Dr. Bell, and Dr. Barbour, members of the Scottish Council, and among the others present were Lord Provost Sir Robert Cranston, Lady Kinross, and Miss Wade, superintendent. Her Royal Highness presented the Queen Victoria Jubilee badges and certificates to the nurses present—to the number of sixteen—who qualified during the year.

Replying to a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, the Duke of Argyll addressed a few remarks to the company. He congratulated the nurses for having taken up the work, and said that in the calling they had to pursue they would always be grateful for the time they had spent and the training they had received as Jubilee nurses. A number of young girls were afterwards presented to Her Royal Highness as representing the schools in the City which subscribe for the upkeep of the Cowgate nurse,

Progress of State Registration.

A PROPHECIC CIRCULAR.

"Honour to whom honour is due." We are always of opinion that the originators of ideas, which are subsequently developed, should receive credit for their share in the results which follow, and we should, therefore, like to give prominence to the fact that, so long ago as 1885, Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., then a surgeon-major on the Army Medical Staff, and keenly interested in the formation of a Corps of Volunteer Female Nurses for Service in the Army Hospitals in the Field, issued a circular dealing with this subject, and added to it some prophetic suggestions as to the incorporation of the nursing profession. These are so excellent that we here reprint them, both that we may bring before our readers General Evatt's excellent work in this connection, and also to remind them that twenty years ago not only was the necessity for Registration felt, but a scheme was actually formulated. The first suggestion for the Registration of Nurses was made by the late Sir Henry Acland in 1874; but so far as we know, the subjoined scheme is the first to have been thought out and printed.

INDIRECT RESULTS OF THE FORMATION OF PROPOSED NURSES' CORPS.

It seems at first sight that the formation of such a corps as I propose above, is purely for a military reserve for war; in point of fact it is far more than this. It is, I think, the first definite attempt to incorporate the nursing profession. That profession is clearly evolving itself out of the old disorder and chaos of untrained attendance on the sick.

But up to the present date the nursing profession has never been taught to incorporate itself, to undertake its own self-government, to endeavour to work its own future, to expel unworthy members from its ranks, to define its curriculum of training, to found a diploma or certificate of efficiency, or to form a pension fund. But all these steps follow logically from the lines I have laid down. Let us examine them in order.

- (A.) *Diploma*.—No defined Diploma in Nursing, everywhere acknowledged, now exists. It is quite possible for the Corps now proposed to be founded, to draw up through its Council, such a Diploma. It would require a curriculum of service at a Hospital and a written and *viva voce* examination. Various classes of certificates could be founded.
- (B.) *Register of Nurses*.—At present no definite Register of Nurses exists, showing places of training, &c. Such a Register is needed, and this Corps now proposed could begin with such a Register.
- (C.) *Sick Fund*.—It would become possible to gradually develop a Sick Fund for the support of Nurses falling into ill health.
- (D.) *Pension Fund*.—A Pension Fund for Superannuated Nurses is much needed. This Association could gradually form such a fund.
- (E.) *Power of Expulsion of Unfit Persons*.—No definite power of expelling unfit persons from the body of Nurses in general now exists.

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