

fees and performing the work which should be in the hands of the thoroughly-trained, thus leaving the public at the mercy of the unskilled. It is essential that in a profession all the members should work together for the common good; a selfish attitude can never be maintained, and distinct duties ignored, without detriment to the profession as a whole. The injury caused by the apathy of many nurses to-day is plainly to be seen in the lessened esteem in which the trained nurse is held. The public comes in contact with all kinds—good, bad, and indifferent—and is very apt to judge the whole calling by a few unfavourable examples.

#### THE ASYLUM WORLD.

In the Asylum World, under the more progressive Superintendents, the importance of training attendants in the care of the sick, as well as in the duties involved in the care of the insane, is increasingly realised.

We gather from the organ of the Asylum Workers' Association that there is some desire on the part of asylum attendants to introduce a Bill providing for their Registration as a class apart. No doubt this would prove a solution of some difficulties. At the same time we do not think it would be to the advantage of the Asylum world. We have always maintained, and we still hold, that those concerned in the nursing care of the insane are entitled to the same educational advantages as those who attend the physically sick, and be registered under the same Act. It is well that this point should be clearly understood. Either this valuable class of workers may ask for recognition as a class apart, seeking registration as mental attendants, or they can join with trained nurses in asking for the establishment of a minimum standard of education which in common they consider necessary, in which case when registered they would work under the same standard and privileges accorded to trained nurses. From the point of view of the Asylum Attendant the latter course appears to us unquestionably the more advantageous.

#### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

During the past year the Matrons' Council has had the advantages of offices at 431, Oxford Street, W., which have proved a convenient centre for the meetings. Many of the members showed their interest in the consolidation of their profession by their presence at the meetings of the International Congress of Women and the International Council of Nurses at Berlin. Owing to this fact no Conference was organised by the Council in London this year. The Council took a prominent part in organising the welcome to the American nurses who passed through London on their way to Berlin. Many of the members have been actively engaged in working for the furtherance of the State Registration movement.

#### LEGAL MATTERS.

The constant appearance of persons described as trained nurses in the police and other courts for various offences still continues, and proves the necessity for the authoritative publication of a Register of Trained Nurses—in which case the very large majority of criminals would prove to be persons with no right to the name they assume—and also for the creation of a Nursing Council, having power to remove from the Register any trained nurse who had proved herself unworthy of trust and professional confidence. Amongst charges brought against persons describing themselves as nurses during the past year are those of abortion (the accused being sentenced to seven years' penal servitude), theft (several), beating a patient, assaulting a lunatic, obtaining money on false pretences, adultery (three), forgery, and other crimes. Surely this will prove to the public the necessity for some organisation and control.

#### NURSING LITERATURE.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING continues to be the only weekly Journal edited by a trained nurse. Its value has once more been proved as affording full and accurate reports of the Registration movement. We are glad to note that *Nursing Notes* has recently spoken out quite strongly as to the necessity for Registration.

The various League Journals continue to maintain a high standard of excellence, and, as the organs of nursing societies, naturally uphold the Registration movement. A Journal which made its first appearance this year is that of the Parish of Nottingham *Nurses' League*, which is fully up to the standard of its predecessors.

A charming journal which deserves, and we have no doubt will command, success is the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, which is a welcome bond of union between the widely-scattered nurses working under the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

#### Barts' Nurses and the Rebuilding Fund.

The members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, with the nurses at present training in the hospital, have recently afforded a fine object-lesson as to the benefit of possessing an organisation through which they can take concerted action, as well as given proof of the affection in which they hold their Alma Mater. On Thursday in last week the League paid over to the hospital authorities the sum of £1,500, collected towards the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Rebuilding Fund. It has been decided to devote the money towards the erection of the urgently-needed Nurses' Home. The League hopes to make another donation, and gifts for this object will be gladly received by Mrs. Matthews, Fountain Hospital, Tooting Graveney, and Miss Whitley (late Sister Martha), West House, Halifax.

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