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Editorial.

NURSING PROGRESS IN VICTORIA.

The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association is greatly to be congratulated on the progress made in the colony in the organisation of nursing education. By the co-operation of the Committees of Management, Matrons, and Teaching Staff of the Training-Schools in Victoria, the Association has achieved its object of the establishment of a uniform system of training and examination for the nurses of the State, and the recent examination held by its Conjoint Board of Examiners is memorable as the first occasion on which it was obligatory for all Victorian nurses who desired to prove their efficiency to pass one and the same standard. But as the organ of the Association states, "a uniform system of training and examination by no means exhausts the demands made in the legitimate interests of nursing progress. Amongst such requirements there stands out prominently the need of some uniform standard of preliminary education, and of some satisfactory scheme for securing the special fitness of future Matrons." The Council of the Association has therefore had these matters under consideration for the last twelve months, and, after receiving valuable assistance from the local training-schools, observation of the practice and aims of the best training-schools elsewhere, and conference with the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, the Director of Education of Victoria, and the Australian Health Society, has now approved a circular embodying its requirements in future. It deals with (1) the educational standard at present required, (2) the preliminary training recommended as specially adapted to the work of the nurse, (3) certain additions to the nursing curriculum, and (4) last, but not least, the institution of a certificate of technical fitness for holding the position of Matron. This will be issued to nurses on the General Register who possess evidence of the following extra qualifications:—

(a) A certificate of twelve months' post-graduate work as Staff Nurse or Sister in a recognised training-school.

(b) The certificate of instruction in cookery, and in dietetics and household economy of the Education Department of Victoria, arranged for probationers and nurses.

(c) A certificate of post-graduate instruction, with practical demonstrations in hospital management, organisation, and equipment, the organisation of ward and domestic work, the organisation and management of training-schools, and other requirements of hospital administration by a specially appointed teacher or teachers. By way of test, the candidate will be required to write an approved paper upon some question of hospital administration.

In the case of candidates whose names are placed on the General Register on and after July 1st, 1905, there will also be required—

(d) The special certificates of the Association in obstetric and in infectious diseases nursing. It is also recommended that candidates for this certificate obtain some experience of private nursing.

It will thus be realised that the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association has a high ideal of the technical qualifications requisite in a Matron, and, by requiring evidence of them, will certainly raise the standard of efficiency in the training of nurses throughout the colony, for the women who have passed through the prescribed course can scarcely fail not only to be highly efficient practically, but to have attained a breadth of view concerning the organisation of their profession which will be of the greatest benefit to them as Superintendents of Schools of Nursing, and consequently to the committees of those schools. It will be a further benefit to such committees to have the guarantee of a professional association as to the technical efficiency of a proportion of its members for the higher posts. We congratulate the Association on its work during the past year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)