

young nurses under 21—an experience I had both with my Syrian and French pupils, girls who are far more developed than English ones at the same age.

I might begin by saying that I am against revealing the mysteries of life either by nursing or by marriage before, at the earliest, the age of 21. It has always been with feelings of regret, that I have been obliged to let young pupils attend either operations, or perform dressings which might come under the heading of "screen cases."

Secondly, nursing being a physical, moral, and mental strain it cannot be right to sap the strength of young girls before the age of maturity.

Thirdly, a great deal of government, administration and organisation falls to the lot of a nurse even when she is only in temporary charge of a ward during the Sister's absence. A knowledge of life, tact, and discernment are required in the management of patients, who, though willing to submit to an older nurse, very much resent being taken in hand by a young one, who has not yet developed and disciplined her own character.

I now come to the delicate question I am constantly being asked about the "new school nurse"—i.e., the young educated French nurse as against the nun and the infirmière. My answer can only be that it is yet early days to judge. They are as yet the young shoots; they are yet the young growing bulbs of the hothouse. Will the frost nip them? Or, if taken out of the warmth of the hothouse and placed in the garden, will they be strong, grow, and multiply? It remains to be seen.

In the meantime, if British doctors only knew how French doctors envy them their nurses they would perhaps appreciate them more.

Let me give a quotation from a French medical journal:—"We here, in France, are still Barbarians as regards our hospitals and our nursing staff. I have just returned from England, and I have returned humbled. I have never been an admirer of the Anglo-Saxon race, but before those charming, refined English nurses, so well trained, so skilled (si bien dressées, si bien stylées), I kneel, I incline my head. Why can we not have the same in France?" My answer to them is not to tell French girls that it is a means of livelihood, but a vocation, and they will draw them, and I can only repeat to M. Mesureur and the Council of the Assistance Publique with regard to the Municipal Hospitals in Paris, where there are 15,000 to 20,000 nurses. "Il vous faut des Directrices! des Directrices!! des Directrices!!!"

E. R. WORTABET.

## Progress of State Registration.

Last week the Bournemouth Division of the Dorset and West Hants Branch of the British Medical Association voted unanimously in favour of the State Registration of trained nurses.

Dr. Hyla Greves moved the resolution and explained at some length the necessity for such a measure. Dr. Vicary Snow was in the chair.

Nurses will remember the able evidence given by Dr. Hyla Greves on the Registration question to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nursing, and he has once again proved himself their friend both by his action recorded above and in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* of the 24th ult. in which he puts the following points before the medical profession:—(1) The advantage to medical men of an assurance that the nurses they employ are thoroughly trained. (2) The enormous improvement in nursing during the last fifty or sixty years, due chiefly to the nurses themselves, who claim, and in Dr. Greves' opinion ought to have, the chief control of their own profession; (3) That not less than two-thirds of their governing body should be Matrons and nurses elected by the nurses themselves.

Dr. Greves says: "For years we had to fight for direct representation on the General Medical Council, and we still think that our direct representation is inadequate. I appeal to those holding these views to be generous and fair enough to apply them to a General Nursing Council."

As no one has offered any criticism on this letter, we may assume that it finds acceptance with the majority of the medical profession.

When the battle of the nurses is fought and won we shall remember with gratitude those members of the medical profession who helped us to gain it.

The Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada are applying for Provincial Registration.

In 1901 the military governor of Cuba, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of the department of charities, approved a law defining rules and regulations for the general use of training schools for nurses in state hospitals, and these were affiliated with the University of Havana, the teaching of nurses thus becoming a part of the state educational department. This was largely due to the influence of American nurses working in Cuba.

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