

Miss Braysbay has strong convictions as to the value of the Central Examination and considers it of great importance in any scheme dealing with nursing education. She looks forward to the time when there shall be a Federation of Nurses, composed of the organised nurses of each state throughout the Commonwealth. Already the Victorian Association has its own organisation, New South Wales has, similarly, the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association to which other states are affiliated, and the establishment of common standards and common examinations throughout the Commonwealth is in a fair way to be effected. Already a basis of reciprocity has been established between the two Associations, but the Victorian standard differs from that of the Sister Association, in requiring general training of all maternity nurses, and in not recognising training in private hospitals.

Miss Braysbay considers that these institutions cannot afford an adequate all-round training and that though the period may be lengthened in order to afford an extended experience, yet that extension of the training period in a private hospital with a small number of beds does not meet the difficulty, because it is not probable that there will be a wide diversity of cases as there is in a general hospital.

During the short period which she is spending in this country Miss Braysbay is anxious to see all that is possible, both of things of interest in the hospital world—more especially in connection with women's operation work—and, also the many beautiful things, whether art treasures, interest, beautiful buildings, or the lovely scenery with which the country abounds.

M. B.

Prize Giving at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, his Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, the State Governor, who presided, presented prizes to the successful nurses as follows:—Third year: First, Nurse Smith; second, Nurse Wilberforce Robertson, Nurse Crouch; gynaecological nursing, Nurse Smith. Second year: First, Nurse Vernon; second, Nurse Richardson; bandaging, Nurse Vernon; practical nursing, Nurse Pitt. First year: First, Nurse Helms; second, Nurse Vaughan Jenkins; anatomy and physiology, Nurse Helms.

Progress of State Registration.

THE INDUSTRIAL ASPECT.

We hear that Mr. Sydney Holland, the Chairman of the London Hospital, is to introduce a deputation to the Lord President of the Privy Council in opposition to the State Registration of Trained Nurses. This is quite as it should be. The Lord President, having received the workers and their supporters, feels, no doubt, that the employers should have the opportunity of stating their views. It is only natural that these two classes should view the question from very different standpoints. In fighting for justice for trained nurses—that is, the employees of Hospital Committees, medical men, and the public—every effort has been made for years past to minimise the industrial significance of the case, but the co-operation of the Chairmen and Committees of so many important hospitals, with training schools for nurses attached, in opposition to their interests, has made it impossible any longer to exclude this important aspect.

In considering the State Registration question members of Parliament and others must now, in fairness to the workers, acquaint themselves with the very helpless position of probationers under most one-sided contracts made with them by Committees of charitable institutions. No law of any sort is to be found in the Statute Book referring to trained nurses, and as most hospitals compel probationers to sign contracts in violation of the laws for domestic servants, the only class of women workers in hospitals who have the support of the law are the wardmaids, who as domestic servants can at least claim a months' board and wages if discharged. Probationers can and have been dismissed at a *moments' notice*, and have no redress whatever.

Again, in these autocratic contracts three or four years' hard work may be exacted from a nurse, whilst no efficient curriculum of education is provided in return to fit her for her future work when her term of so-called training is at an end, and she has no redress. We hope therefore that the Lord President of the Council will probe into these essentials. We also commend them to the careful consideration of the Labour Members in the House of Commons and to the various societies throughout the country which they represent. A statement of the huge profits now being made out of the labour of the nurses on the Private Nursing Staff at the London Hospital and other hospitals might very well be called for. Thousands of

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