

or of being accepted by the various boards as a fully qualified nurse, instruction is to be given, and examinations held in nursing—practical and theoretical—elementary physiology and anatomy, pharmaceuticals appertaining to nursing, and the theory and practical uses of electricity and X-rays.

We congratulate both these institutions in levelling up the training given to the three years' term. By the time the Central Nursing Council gets to work it will find a wonderful spirit of unanimity on this point amongst the best managed hospitals.

It is thought by the Trustees of the Portland estate that the great increase of private nursing homes in the Harley Street district is greatly depreciating property. So the fiat has gone forth that no more houses in this medical district are to be leased for the purpose. Moreover, the goodwill of such houses as exist are, where possible, being bought up by a syndicate and, in some instances, paid superintendents put in pending the starting of a new scheme.

We hear the syndicate has been formed to work a large home hospital of 100 beds, to be erected close to Harley Street, to gobble up the work now distributed in numerous small homes, and that it is reckoned that eight to ten per cent. will be paid on shares. In the past, this lucrative branch of nursing has justly been in the hands of trained nurses. The capitalist does not see the fun of that—so he is going to buy up the whole business if possible. The suggestion emanated, of course, from a financier who has for years exploited hospitals and nurses, the latter of which may be said to be his mainstay of income.

We hope ladies conducting flourishing nursing homes, and reaping rightly the just reward of their work, will stand out against this City scheme, and refuse to sell their goodwill. There is no doubt that if houses are refused on the Portland and Portman estates to be used as home hospitals, those that exist for the purpose will become much more valuable. Why should the middleman come in and take, as usual, the lion's share of profit. We imagine the medical profession will have something to say to this latest species of philanthropic rapacity.

The Poplar inquiry has aroused a considerable flutter in certain Poor Law dovecots, and, of course, when a question of expenditure is considered the economical eye of man turns boldly towards the cost of female labour. How much cheaper can these women be got in the

open market? Of what can we deprive them so that huge expenditure in the several male departments need not be overhauled? The woman pays—of course she does—and sometimes we are inclined to think it serves her right for contentedly remaining the disfranchised, helpless slave she is in the body politic.

Anyway, the Board of Guardians which governs the New Infirmary at Hendon and the Central London Sick Asylum have determined to begin effecting economies at the expense of the health of their nursing staffs, and in consequence, of the efficiency in nursing the sick, by depriving them of a week of their annual holiday. So their very hard-working Matron, Miss Elma Smith, who has served the institution faithfully for fourteen years, is to have three weeks instead of a month, and the nurses two instead of three weeks' holiday.

Now our advice to the whole staff is to refuse at once to submit to any such arrangement. The Matron's term of holiday, granted for fourteen successive years, has become her prescriptive right, and the nurses have been engaged by the Guardians upon a definite contract which they have absolutely no right to break. If the Guardians persist in their ungenerous and short-sighted attitude, let the question be decided by the Local Government Board. The President is a man who has always believed that the labourer is worthy of his hire. A little firmness upon the part of Matrons and nurses at this crisis will save an infinity of grumbling and disorganisation in the future.

The past week has proved quite a red letter one for the West Ham and East London Hospital, for on Wednesday last the young Duchess of Marlborough, who has been such a good friend to the Hospital, paid it an unexpected visit, bringing with her many gifts, and as she happened to come during the visiting hour, she had a chat with their relatives as well as with the patients, and arranged for many of the latter to have a change of air in the country.

The Duchess also promised to give prizes to the successful candidates at the Probationers' yearly examination. Nurses Adcock and Kerr will take the first and second prizes in the senior division, and Nurses Austin and Wilson in the junior class.

The West Ham Hospital At Home, held last Saturday, also proved a great success; the reception was held at 3.30 p.m. by Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Cook, and the Matron, Miss Amy E. Ough, and quite five hundred guests were present. "The

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