

describes a modern school for training secular nurses in Brussels, the first one of its kind in that city. The regulations sound very well, and the Directress is one of the Committee on admission of probationers. The course is three years, but two further years of service are required of each pupil. Their home is charming and comfortable; they are provided with uniform and receive a small allowance during the three years' training. The pupils are trained in different institutions, and are also sent (we are sorry to see) into private families. The periods of the different services are fixed by a committee on the recommendation of the Directress.

To judge from the annual report, the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, is evidently a popular training school, as the Matron, Miss Hawkins, reports 185 applications for admission during the year. Twenty-nine candidates were accepted and entered the school, 13 of whom for various reasons were found unsuitable. In the Colonial Medical Council's examination in June, Somerset Hospital nurses secured the fourth, ninth, tenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth places in the Colony, and in December two nurses entered and passed second and twelfth respectively. Nurse Dickinson gained the "Arderne" prize in December.

Miss Child, the late Matron, is returning to South Africa next month, where she has many friends, and will find a cordial welcome. Once more it seems that "those who have once drunk African waters are never happy until they drink them again."

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the *American Journal of Nursing*, the directors presented a satisfactory report of the year's work.

The question of a weekly issue of the *Journal* was discussed. Attention was called to the fact that the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* was published weekly, and the *Journal of the German Nurses' Association* fortnightly; and that, in the United States, with professional matters much more highly organised, and moving more rapidly than in either England or Germany, a weekly journal seemed almost a necessity. The idea was, on the whole, favourably received and commended to the future board of directors.

An American journal, *The Post Graduate*, rightly considers the lessening of a nurse's training from three to two years a retrograde movement, and condemns the two training

schools in New York which have taken this reactionary course.

"We aim to make the nurses fully able to assist a surgeon in a great operation, and, above all, to get the patient ready for it; to aid a physician in all the excitement and weariness of typhoid or pneumonia cases, an orthopedic surgeon with his operations and his complicated dressings; an oculist with the after care of a case of cataract operation; an otologist with a mastoid; an obstetrician, and finally to look after babies with their perplexing and innumerable needs. For all that, three years in the life of a young woman choosing a calling that may involve in later years the superintending of a training school or a hospital or similar responsibilities, is certainly not too much.

"We are warmly in favour of all that is said about cropping off excrescences in teaching and returning to simple methods in whatever schools it may be necessary, but we have no sympathy for shortening the term as a remedy for any evil of this kind which may exist in a training school or other institution. From what we have seen of training schools we cannot agree that the simple methods of instruction are neglected as archaic and primitive, or that training schools have changed their vocation to 'become institutions for the higher education of women along medical lines.' This is a bogey that in our judgment exists chiefly in the minds of those who do not have very high ideas of nursing.

"Trained nurses generally have been becoming better for years, and much of their improvement, to our mind, is due to a sufficiently prolonged period of study, not of books, but of patients. The exactions in their training in hard, intelligent work over the patients have become so great that no ordinary young woman ought to be asked to crowd that work into as short a space of time as two years. Besides this, those who train them have in the third year a valuable class of the survival of the fittest, who become very useful in their last year to the hospital which they serve. Under the present system critical cases may always be cared for by a woman of experience. The highest good of patients, and the advance of medical science will, we believe, be sacrificed or retarded by any general adoption of the lessening of the term for the training of nurses."

Whatever the theorists may think, there is no nurse who has received the invaluable third year of training who does not realise its value. The unanimous opinion seems to be that the third year is the most important of all.

#### EXAMINATIONS.

At the recent examinations of Nurses at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., the Gold Medal given by the Clothworkers' Company to the nurse who heads the list in the final examination has been won by Miss W. M. Bickham. The prize of books awarded to the probationer who comes out first in the examination at the end of the first year has been gained by Miss Newth.

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