

the trained nurse, but that the efficiency of any Registration Act depends upon the establishment and maintenance of adequate standards for nurses, and here the Association rightly claims that its work for the past eight years entitles it to speak with authority, and it proves its sense of professional responsibility by stating that it is prepared to contest every inch of the ground, if there is reason to suppose that a lower legal standard may be proposed, than that which has been established by the voluntary co-operation of some thousands of nurses, and numbers of hospitals throughout the Commonwealth.

The article referred to reminds nurses that it is of vital interest to them all to have a satisfactory Bill passed, as the adoption of a low standard as a qualification for registration would do incalculable harm, and it, therefore, advises members of the Association to get to work to explain on every possible occasion that it is to the interest of the public that the nursing standard should be a high one, that it is only the incompetent nurses who wish otherwise, so that when the Bill is next read before the House there may be unanimity on this point.

We do not agree with the statement that "State Registration will simply and solely provide for the Registration of Nurses; it will not look after their interests afterwards." Surely, it will be the duty of the State constituted Governing Body to maintain the standards upon which emphasis is so rightly laid by the A.T.N.A.

Why should not the Nursing Associations in Australasia, which have proved their capacity to organise their profession, and which are possessed of expert knowledge and experience, ask to be empowered to carry on this work under State authority? Their qualification for such a position is a very strong one.

The Finnish Nurses' Journal.

Most cordially do we welcome the latest journal edited by nurses, which has reached us bearing the inscription, "The Finnish Nursing Association's first-born, with many compliments, from S. Mannerheim." The Journal is charming, well produced, and clearly printed. The cover is of a soft green shade, bearing the name *Epione* and a Greek cross. *Epione*, whose name the Finnish nurses have adopted, was the wife of *Æsculapius*, the god of Physic, and the mother of *Hygiea*, goddess of health, *Iaso*, goddess of recovery, and *Panacea*, the all healing goddess. Hail *Epione*!

Practical Points.

Mental Deficiency.

Dr. R. J. Collie, of the London County Council, Education Department of the addressing a meeting of teachers at the College of Preceptors, said that mental deficiency in children was in 40 per cent. of cases due to hereditary disease, in 28 per cent. to tuberculosis in various forms, in 16 per cent. to parental intemperance, in 8 per cent. to epilepsy, and in 4 per cent. to parental or grand-parental consanguinity. He never knew an epileptic tell the truth; they lied without knowing it. No records were kept of the marriage of cousins, but they were more common in the upper classes than in others, and were sometimes arranged for the retention of property in the family. Any morbid traits in the parents were likely to be transmitted, as both parents inherited the same family feelings, of which the child received a double dose.

The Nursing of Tubercular Patients.

At a lecture on the "Care of Consumptives," delivered to the Nurses of the Cottage Hospital, Peoria, U.S.A., Dr. Sumner M. Miller gave the

following useful advice:—

Remember that you are in no danger of contracting the disease so long as you observe proper hygienic precautions; you may care for consumptives as safely as for any other class of patients. The sputum alone is the carrier of the disease and your most important duty will consist in the observance of proper hygienic precautions for destroying all the sputum, and in exacting these precautions of your patient.

Your next important duty will be the education of the patient—as to the nature of the disease, the method by which he may protect the members of his family and the nature of the cure. This instruction should also extend to them. The necessary facts can only be sufficiently impressed upon them by repeated instruction.

Rules for the Nursing and Care of Consumptives.

1. Instruct the patient not to swallow the sputum, lest tuberculosis of intestines result.

2. Disposition of sputum—provide suitable receptacles for the deposit of all the sputum; these should be kept clean.

Spit-cups—best those with pasteboard interiors; burn the pasteboard every day and supply a new one. Scald the tin in boiling water after cleaning it, before inserting new interior. Cuspidors—should contain an antiseptic, carbolic acid, or lime. Wash and scald daily, burn contents, they should never be allowed to become dry. Paper napkins may be used on the street, which may be deposited in a paper bag, and the whole burned. Use old cloths instead of handkerchiefs, and burn these when soiled. A cloth should be held over the mouth while coughing, that the fine shower of spray may not be disseminated. On no account allow the sputum to become dried.

2. Cleanliness.—In male patients, the beard should be shaved off or trimmed close, and cleansed

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