

Mrs. Tooley states that "in 1903 the Royal British Nurses' Association passed a resolution in favour of State Registration, and a Parliamentary Bill was introduced into the House of Commons by the Hon. Claude Hay. The following year a Bill prepared by the Society for State Registration was introduced by Dr. Farquharson." No proof of either of these statements is offered.

The facts, easily verified, are that Dr. Farquharson's Bill was introduced on February 15th, 1904, and Mr. Claude Hay's Bill on March 7th, 1904, not 1903.

The authentic history of the British Nurses' Association, supported by documentary evidence, will be related when the third volume of the professional "History of Nursing," by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, appears, so that more need not be said at the present time.

Then in connection with the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the gratuitously erroneous statement is made that the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* was "founded in 1894." The *NURSING RECORD*, now incorporated in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, was founded in 1888, and the latter title adopted in 1902.

Again, the late President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, of honoured memory, now deceased, is described as still occupying that office. It has been held by Miss Isla Stewart for the last fifteen months. The Nurses' Directory Bill, the fate of which has long since been decided, is said to be awaiting the attention of Parliament.

Further, eight of the United States of America are stated to have passed Registration Acts. The actual number is sixteen.

Our advice to Mrs. Tooley for the future is to write upon subjects concerning which she has the necessary knowledge, and no further to exploit the nursing profession, which has within its ranks plenty of expert writers competent to deal accurately with their own affairs, of which the book now under consideration affords ample proof.

The "Science and Art of Nursing" is in many respects an excellent publication, but if Messrs. Cassell and Co. wish to maintain a reputation for correctness we should advise them to have the erroneous statements to which we have drawn attention, deleted, or rectified in the next edition.

THE LAW RELATING TO NURSES AND NURSING.

An article on this subject is contributed by Mr. R. Storey Deans, Barrister-at-law, who points out that "a nurse, as such, has no recognised position or status in law. That is to say, there is nobody who can say she (or he) is, in law, entitled to be called a nurse, any more than anybody else. Put in another way, it may be said that any person, skilful or unskilful, trained or untrained, may legally call herself a nurse." The writer adds "to this broad proposition there is one exception" that of midwives; nursing and midwifery, however, are two distinct professions, and nurses, as such, are not affected by the Midwives' Act.

Some interesting points are dealt with. Thus, a nurse is liable for the consequences of her

negligence. What constitutes negligence on her part? She is a person possessing superior skill. That is why she is employed. And the law is that when a person professes skill in any calling, or any art, and is retained for that reason, then unless he displays the skill he is negligent. Skill in the case of a nurse includes "knowledge, dexterity, nerve, and coolness."

NURSING AS A VOCATION.

An interesting chapter on the above subject is contributed by Miss Amy Hughes, who emphasises the importance of a thorough training, as well as the possession of the instinct of nursing, and expresses the opinion that general training should be supplemented, if possible, by experience in midwifery, massage, and the care of infectious diseases. A certificate in massage is, she says, held to be "an almost essential qualification for a fully certified nurse to possess."

In the course of the article Miss Hughes discusses the nursing of private patients in their own homes, and recommends nurses either to join one of the large and well-established co-operative societies or the staff of a good private nursing institution. In the former case she points out that a nurse "depends entirely upon herself as regards her success in obtaining full and regular employment. She is duly recommended by the office, but must make her own record."

Amongst the other articles contributed is one by Miss Mary F. May, Matron of the Royal Chest Hospital in the City Road, on the relation of the nurse to doctor and patient. Miss May lays stress on the desirability of reticence in a nurse, and points out that professional secrecy is no less "an obligation of honour in dealing with the poor than in a nurse's relations with people in better circumstances. The district visitor often ignores this, and, treating the nurse as though she were a detective, goes to her for information about the domestic affairs of some of her 'people,' which she has no right to seek, and the nurse no right to disclose."

Miss Vernet, Matron of the Middlesex Hospital, deals with "Hospital Management," Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, with "The Work of a Hospital Probationer," in which she describes the successive stages of training. There is an admirable chapter by Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the Wandsworth Infirmary, which affords much useful information to those taking up Poor-Law Nursing. Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., deals with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and Mr. M. C. Walshe, J.P., writes of "Male Nursing," a subject with which he is well qualified to deal. "Training Schools and Other Nursing Institutions" are dealt with by Miss Lillian A. Maule.

Book II. of the first volume comprises two chapters, one on Elementary Anatomy, by Mr. Russell Howard, F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Surgical Nursing to Probationers at the London Hospital, and another on Elementary Physiology, by Dr. W. C. Bosanquet, Lecturer to Nurses at Charing Cross Hospital.

The second volume will be reviewed in our next issue.

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