

certificates, have won by care and devotion to duty the respect of all fair-minded persons.

To all appearances, however, this is not the path which the promoters of these associations are likely to follow. Instead of seeing standards raised we see them lowered, and we find nurses here and there whose training is either shrouded in mystery, or of a very short and inefficient character.

The advocates of this system claim that partially-trained nurses have certain advantages over fully-trained nurses. They assert, for instance, that the poor are more "at home" with one in their own station in life; also that the cottage nurse does all and a great deal more than the fully-trained nurse. Such assertions can only provoke a smile from all those who know anything about nurses and nursing, past and present.

The position of the cottage nurse is both unsatisfactory and unfair. She is trained shortly and cheaply, yet she is expected to do as much in the way of nursing, and more in the way of household work, than a fully-trained nurse.

While the standards of trained nursing have been set by the profession, the standards of cottage nursing have been set by non-professional persons, who neither understand the position and work of a nurse, nor the circumstances and conditions under which poor people live.

In prospect of the coming of State Registration, it is unjust to cottage nurses that so little consideration should be given to their training. It means that a large number of women who have adopted the occupation as a means of livelihood, will, in course of time, find themselves in a peculiar position. Those whose names are not to be found on the Register will be looked at askance and even with suspicion by medical practitioners and patients who do not know them personally to be perhaps highly estimable women and careful nurses, so far as their training goes.

In conclusion, it is difficult to forecast the future of the cottage nurse. She may, if well trained and given a position which the nursing profession can recognise, occupy an honourable position in the future.

Seven years intimate association with cottage nurses enables me to speak of them with some little knowledge.

It is neither with these nurses nor with the class to which they belong that the nursing profession has to find fault. As with trained nurses so with cottage nurses—many are good, a few are bad.

It is the system under which cottage nurses are trained and worked that demands the

attention, and to a certain degree requires the censure, of the nursing profession.

If any cottage nurses view with alarm the action of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland in raising this discussion, they will, I feel certain, soon be reassured. The best interests of nurses of all grades can be best looked after by those in the profession who have climbed the ladder step by step, till at last they have reached, and are occupying, positions on which the eyes of the whole nursing world in Great Britain and Ireland are bent.

Progress of State Registration.

A truly sympathetic letter has been addressed by Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses and the American Federation of Nurses, to the Irish press on the Nurses' Registration question. Miss Dock warmly champions the inclusion of Irish nurses in our Registration Bill, and says:—"The various steps taken by the united nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to obtain the legal protection and recognition which, under modern circumstances, are absolutely essential to prevent fraud and secure justice to faithful workers, have been observed with the most lively interest and sympathy by American nurses, who have now in a number of States secured for themselves this legal justice, and are in a position to realise its salutary effects on honest standards of professional education."

The admirable manner in which Irish nurses have combined to convince the Irish Office that they intend to be included in the benefits of the Bill will have no warmer admirer than Miss Dock, who has a truly international heart where the welfare of nurses is concerned. Let us hope that all will now go merry as a marriage bell, and that the Government and all concerned will combine to effect the wisest and most liberal legislation possible. It is good to know that we have so many staunch friends abroad; as the professional nursing journals come pouring in from our Colonies, the States, and European countries, all are quite solid for "honest standards" of nursing education and registration.

A correspondent asks "Will canine nurses be eligible for registration?" We are inclined to think not, but dog lovers no doubt will resent their exclusion. What is more piteous than a suffering animal? We think the work of the Canine Nurses' Institute truly humane and admirable.

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