

the advantage of practical experience in the nursing of at least general medical, surgical, and infectious cases, to say nothing of obstetric nursing.

To demand legislation which makes such a sound professional policy unnecessary, and even impossible, is a fundamental blot in the Scottish Bill, to which we hope the nurses in Scotland, when they are consulted, will refuse to accede.

NO NECESSITY FOR A CENTRAL EXAMINATION.

The opinion of the Committee responsible for the Scottish Bill that a central examination is not necessary because of "the excellence of the training given to nurses in the leading hospitals," and because it "would tend to create the impression that the main object to be aimed at in training a nurse was to enable her to pass such examination" cannot be supported by fact or experience.

In the first place, as Lord Amptill pointed out in the House of Lords, legislation is not for the perfect few, but for the imperfect many. Secondly, there is no question as to whether a nurse's knowledge shall be tested at the end of her training by examination—this is already the rule—but that a minimum and uniform standard shall be enforced by an independent authority.

Wherever the registration of nurses is carried out under the authority of the State—in South Africa, in New Zealand, in Germany, in Belgium, in the United States of America—the principle of a Central Examination has been established, and examinations instituted, whereby the knowledge of all candidates for registration in the country or state concerned is submitted to the same tests. Only by this method can the Governing Body maintain standards, and give a guarantee to the public of the professional efficiency of nurses admitted to the Register.

This has been recognised in the Midwives' Act for England and Wales; and the Medico-Psychological Association by instituting an independent and uniform examination for mental nurses has done much to systematise and improve the nursing of the insane.

The Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses has also done useful work by establishing an examination, which is a recognised test of efficiency for masseuses.

Every organised body of nurses in England and Ireland, which has considered the question of legislation, attaches the greatest importance to the independent examination, and Scottish nurses may well ask why they alone are to be deprived of this benefit. To quote their meagre remuneration as an excuse for denying

them this privilege touches on a vital point of economics, which the public generally will do well to consider.

In conclusion, at present the nurses of the three kingdoms are regarded as one, but should the Registration Bill for Scotland institute lower qualifications for registration for Scottish nurses than the English and Irish nurses demand, and which the House of Lords have already approved, we fear that both the position and prestige of Scottish nurses may suffer materially.

This would be disastrous to their professional interests.

Clause 14 of Lord Amptill's Bill provides that nurses trained and registered in any British Possession in which a Nurses' Registration Act is in force, can only be admitted to the British Register on reciprocal terms, and provided that the standard of training and examination is equivalent.

It is evident that the same principle must be applied in the case of Scottish nurses, and unless the standards for the three kingdoms are equal the Clause inserted in the Scottish Bill which provides that "any nurse registered under this Act shall be held to be a registered nurse in England and Ireland" will naturally be determinedly resisted by nurses who have attained the higher standard.

We feel sure that, taking into consideration the fact that Scottish nurses have no Association of their own, and are therefore in a very helpless position, the Committee of Medical Superintendents and Matrons who have taken the responsibility of acting on their behalf will carefully consider the points to which we have alluded before action is taken to enforce legislation.

PRESENTATION.

Two presentations were made recently to Nurse M. H. Griffiths, of the Hope Hospital staff, Salford, in recognition of the service she rendered in a recent tramway accident in Eccles Old Road, in which a passenger had his leg cut off. Practically through her assistance the man's life was saved. Alderman Linsley, the Chairman of the Salford Tramways Committee, made the presentations, saying the Committee had decided to show their appreciation of the nurse's praiseworthy conduct by the gift of a cheque. The motormen and conductors on the Eccles Old Road route were so pleased that they had purchased a surgical chatelaine and a brass inkstand with clock. Nurse Aron, who helped Nurse Griffiths, also received from the tramwaymen a satchel with watch inset.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

Transfers and Appointments.—Miss E. Brayton to Drighlington, Miss A. L. B. Cook to Aberystwyth, Miss S. T. Grieves to Hammersmith, Miss D. Jones to Gresford, Miss W. Smith to Bury.

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