

into all sorts of trouble in dealing with cases of this type, and often comes back to hospital with a complaint of the unreasonableness of her patient, and leaving behind her a not too favourable impression in the minds of the doctor, patient, and friends.

Personally, I think that six months' or a year's mental experience in a recognised mental hospital would be invaluable to any nurse, provided she is really keen about her work and wishes to do the best she can for all patients who happen to come under her care.

The experiment has actually been tried in Scotland, whereby a system of interchange between the asylums of one body and the hospitals of another is made available for nurses of both classes of institutions. Three years' training in the one can be followed by one year in the other. The continued training of four years—which is tested by periodical examinations—qualifies the nurse to enter for a final examination, conducted by a conjoint board of the Medical Superintendents of all the training institutions, and success is followed by an immediate gain of a year's seniority, with the reversion of a superior post falling vacant; also the scale of pay seems very liberal.

I wrote to a Matron to inquire about the success of the scheme. The following passages are from her letter in reply:—"I am sorry to tell you the arrangement you ask about did not succeed. The hospital trained nurses were willing to come to us for six months or so, but had to get senior duties, while the mental nurses were expected to take practically probationers' work. . . . I certainly think within the last few years the standard of the mental nurses has much improved . . . everyone taking the certificate. We work quite on the lines of a general hospital. The nurses are changed every three months, and as we have a large number of bed-wards they get a good all-round training. With the exception of very bad surgical cases, I consider them at the end of their three years quite capable of taking charge of any case of sick nursing."

The result has thus not been successful in the only case, to my knowledge, where the experiment was tried. But the difficulties in this case do not seem to have been by any means insuperable.

My first object, however, is to point out the advantages which would result from such double training. Once these are manifest, the rest is merely a matter of organisation. This I have tried to do in the short notes I have just read of points that have occurred to me; the advantages are not fully set forth, and disadvantages, if there be any, are omitted.

Progress of State Registration.

As this Journal is issued on Thursday, our readers must await our report of the result of the Deputation which will wait on the Prime Minister on the 13th inst, in support of State Registration of Trained Nurses, until next week. Whatever may be the result of the Petition of the Deputation at the moment, those who are to compose it, and those whom they represent, are fully determined to work steadily without any doubt of ultimate success until the nurses in the United Kingdom and the public whom they serve, are protected by a just law providing for the organisation of Trained Nursing.

The Deputation will be introduced by the Right Hon. the Lord Anphtill, G.C.I.E., G.C.S.I., who will be supported by Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., and many other representative Members of Parliament. Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., and Mr. J. Smith Whitaker will represent the British Medical Association, and amongst the members of the medical profession who have promised to attend are Sir William Macewen, F.R.C.S., LL.D., of Glasgow, and Dr. Bedford Fenwick.

The Nursing Profession will be represented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, General Hospitals; Miss M. Huxley, Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C.; Miss Barton, Poor Law Infirmaries; and Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent, School Nurses, London County Council.

Lady Strachey, President, Women's Local Government Society; Mrs. Alfred Emmott, National Union of Women Workers; and Miss E. Kerrison, Women's Labour League, will also attend.

THE PUBLIC GOOD.

"If you tell me I am an idiot so often," a little girl once informed an irascible governess, "I shall become one." So with the quack nursing journals, which make profit from the foolish. Last week we were informed by the lay editor of one of these publications that, as a class, nurses are much too foolish to take part in their own professional affairs. This naturally must be left to the persons who employ them! For our part, whilst wishing that women, especially a larger number of nurses, would take an active interest in all that concerns their profession, we have found those who do so very keen and intelligent in their work for the public good.

Let us, therefore, approach this burning question of Registration from that standpoint, and be prepared, if necessary, to make sacrifices for the sake of the community at large.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)