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## Editorial.

### STRIVING AFTER STANDARDS.

We publish in another column a report of a meeting of the Infirmary Matrons' Association, at which action was taken in reference to a scheme proposed by the Medical Superintendents' Society for the uniform training and examining of Poor Law Nurses. This once more emphasises the widespread desire for uniformity in connection with nursing education and for the maintenance of standards, only possible through combined action and the establishment of central examinations to test the knowledge of pupils.

Until the day comes when "a General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom" is established by Act of Parliament with powers to regulate the course of training, the conduct of examinations and the conditions of admission to the Register of Nurses, such examinations, when efficiently organised, serve a useful purpose in maintaining standards. Only those concerned in their maintenance can realise the constant struggle necessary to prevent their depreciation and the helpfulness of centralisation as a means to this end. It is interesting to enumerate the different bodies which have established examinations in connection with nursing education in addition to the one above mentioned.

1. The Local Government Board for Scotland holds periodical examinations for probationers who have received three years' training in Poor Law Hospitals in Scotland in accordance with a defined syllabus; parchment certificates are granted only to those nurses who pass the Board's examination, and it is expected that all nurses in parochial service will endeavour to obtain this certificate.

2. The Royal British Nurses' Association conducts an examination in general nursing

and awards a diploma to successful candidates.

3. The Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute requires nurses to pass an examination before admission to the Queen's Roll, the reports of the Queen's Institute Inspector, and of the Superintendent of the Training Home, being considered in conjunction with that of the examiner.

4. In accordance with Army Orders issued in February, 1906, Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service are not promoted to the position of Matron until they pass an examination conducted by a Board of Examiners, consisting of a Principal Matron and two Military Matrons, special arrangements being made in the case of Sisters abroad. The examination papers for the written portion of the examination are prepared under the direction of the Director-General of the Army Medical Service. Candidates are required to deliver a lecture, adapted to the training of orderlies, before the examiners.

5. The Fever Nurses' Association proposes to establish a uniform standard of training in fever hospitals, with a subsequent examination for probationers who desire to obtain the Association's certificate; and other well-known instances of central examinations in special branches are the examination of the Medico-Psychological Society, which is recognised as the test of efficiency for mental nurses, and that of the Central Midwives' Board and of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses.

Stronger proof could scarcely be afforded that those concerned in the maintenance of standards believe that the test of a central examination is necessary, or that nurses realise the value of the documentary evidence thus obtainable than that they voluntarily submit themselves to examination by private societies, and cheerfully pay the required fees.

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