

the course. All the men have to learn gymnastics, and the instructors are picked men who have shown special aptitude, and are so placed in positions of authority and importance. When they first come up it seems as if their hands, which go to work with so much energy, were not suited for the delicate manipulations they have to perform, but when the men understand that they must assume the limb they are practising upon is dislocated or fractured, they learn to handle it with a gentleness and skill not to be exceeded, and not always equalled, by any woman.

Talking of hands, other masseuses have told me, and Miss Manning endorses it, that a thin or bony hand which is used much for massage develops with the exercise and becomes plump and cushiony; therefore, no one who thinks her hand unsuitable need despair. The main thing is, so Miss Manning holds, that the hand should be an intelligent one. Some hands are, she says, so stupid, and we all know that there are many hands, perhaps the majority, if we are sensitive to impressions, that we prefer not to touch us—so many things are conveyed to us by touch, and so it is easy to understand that a hand used in massage should be not only intelligent, but sensitive and sympathetic, otherwise it may only irritate when its province is to heal.

One thing Miss Manning is very much alive to, and that is the necessity for thoroughness in training. She would like to see the course extended beyond six months. It is possible that before long a school may be opened in London by a Swedish professor, with Swedish masseuses working under him, in which the teaching will be organised on the lines adopted with so much success in Sweden.

A point worth noting is that, though massage to be of much value must be taught and learnt scientifically, yet skill in manipulation often seems to be a hereditary gift. Thus in India and Africa it is often highly developed in some of the native races.

Before leaving the hospital I learnt something from the hard-working and genial Secretary, Mr. E. A. Attwood, of the developments which are taking place. A new wing, to contain 70 beds, is rapidly rising, with a frontage and the main entrance in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, already noted for its numerous hospitals; and on the other side of Great Ormond Street is the site for the new Nurses' Home. "Of course, it all means money," says Mr. Attwood, "but it comes." So it does, when capable hands hold the reins in the secretarial office, but it represents much hard work.

M. B.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Friday, February 25th; Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

After the minutes had been confirmed, the following Report was received from the Hon. Secretary:—

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

A Central Registration Committee.

I beg to report that the proposal to secure for one Bill for the Registration of Nurses, the support of the various Medical and Nursing Societies which have been promoting legislation has been successful.

At your meeting on October 8th, 1909, your Hon. Secretary proposed, and it was agreed:—"That the principle of forming a Standing Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses be accepted, the Committee to be formed of delegates of societies supporting the movement." It was further agreed that "the Hon. Secretary be empowered to carry out a line of preliminary organisation and report to the Committee."

This I have great pleasure in doing.

At your meeting on November 26th, 1909, I reported that I had consulted our Parliamentary advisers—Lord Amptill and Mr. Munro-Ferguson—and that they approved the suggestion that such a Central Committee on Registration should be formed. Negotiations with various societies resulted in eight out of the nine approached appointing five delegates each to attend a Conference on the question convened by Lord Amptill, and the following representatives were nominated:—

The British Medical Association.—Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Dr. J. A. Macdonald, T. Jenner Verrall, Esq., M.R.C.S., Dr. R. C. Buist, J. Smith Whitaker, Esq., M.R.C.S.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.—Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Heather-Bigg, Miss G. A. Rogers, Miss M. Mollett, Miss H. Todd (retired), and Miss Musson.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.—Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Miss H. L. Pearse, Miss M. Brey, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

The Royal British Nurses' Association.—Dr. Bezly Thorne, John Langton, Esq., F.R.C.S., Dr. Clement Godson, Miss Grace Gordon, Miss Tawney.

The Fever Nurses' Association.—Dr. E. W. Goodall, Dr. F. Foord Caiger, Dr. Biernacki, Miss E. M. Bann, Miss L. A. Morgan.

The Irish Nurses' Association.—Miss L. V. Houghton, Miss Kelly, Miss Huxley, Miss Keogh, and Mrs. Kildare Treacy.

The Scottish Nurses' Association.—Sir William Macewen, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Dr. McGregor Robertson, Miss Wright, Miss Tisdall, and Miss K. Burleigh.

The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland.—The Lord Inver-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)