

We may remind St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses who grieve at the slight placed upon the splendid work of their late Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, that such work is never lost. It stands the test of time, and will be appraised at its true value, in days to come. But the lesson of the last few weeks is that the status, the honour, and the good name of the nursing profession must be in its own keeping, and that a central Governing Body is as essential for the nursing, as for the medical profession.

"Good name in man or woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

### Nursing Reform in Italy.

EXTRACTS FROM PROSPECTUS OF SCUOLA  
CONVITTO REGINA ELENA.

The interest taken by the Queen of Italy in the new School for Nurses in Rome is shown in the following letter:—

*Translation of letter sent by the Minister to Princess Doria.*

"I have the honour to inform you that her Majesty the Queen, convinced of the necessity of reform in the nursing of the sick in our country, has received with greatest satisfaction the news of a vigorous action in establishing a Training School for Nurses, which can in the future serve as model to other towns in the peninsula.

"Our august Sovereign, whilst praising the useful initiative of this Comitato, adheres willingly, so that the noble idea may be actuated under her auspices, granting her protection (appoggio) to the Institution, and expressing hopes that it will meet the favour of all orders of citizens, and assert the supreme duty of providing intelligent nursing for those who suffer."

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*Extract from prospectus itself:—*

"Those countries which offer the example of thorough training of nurses prove that bedside nursing needs especial instruction quite different from that of medical students, and that it must be imparted by women who are already highly trained.

These countries offer also the spectacle of a perfect organisation of hospital nursing. Amongst the principal elements is an almost military discipline, which, with a rational division of work or responsibility, confers an unquestioned authority on those who have attained the higher positions, and an absolute obedience from those who, still at the commencement of their career, aspire, by acquiring the needful competency, to obtain in their turn the posts of high responsibility."

### Truth About Registration in the United States.

THE NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

My Dear Miss Dock,

I am afraid I can help you very little as to the results of Registration. It is still too soon to see much, I think.

I can only say that when training schools have been shown that there was something lacking in what they gave their pupils, they have without exception tried to supply the needed instruction, showing, I think, that they recognised the justice of the demand, and also showing the usefulness of State Registration, as without such regulation the needed change would probably not have been made.

One Superintendent tells me that she finds the idea of having to pass a State examination, that is, undergo the same test that graduates of all other nurse schools in the same locality undergo, has had the effect of making her pupil nurses take more interest in work and studies, with the thought that there was more to be gained than merely the school diploma.

The fact that to enter both Army and Navy Nurse Corps it is necessary to be a Registered Nurse, if coming from a State where registration is in force, and that this requirement is one of those laid down by the Superintendent of these Corps with the approval of the Surgeons General of Army and Navy, would show that it is not considered altogether a failure by those in authority.

I enclose a newspaper clipping containing the views of one of the District Commissioners, who corresponds, in the peculiar form of government of the District of Columbia, to the Governor of a State and the Mayor of a city at the same time.

This may be of some weight as showing the views of one more in authority.

Yours very truly,

LILY KAMLY.

COMMISSIONER MACFARLAND COMPLIMENTS NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD.

The Nurses' Examining Board of the District of Columbia, which furnishes official certificates of the competency of trained nurses, has proved its worth, according to Commissioner Macfarland. He said so after he had read the second annual report of the Board.

The Nurses' Examining Board, it is explained, was created by an act of Congress prepared under the direction of Commissioner Macfarland and recommended by the Commissioners. It was approved February 6th, 1907, and the Board has been in active operation for about two years. Before the passage of the Act, Commissioner Macfarland explained, there was no official examining board for trained nurses, and there were no official certificates of competency, so that the public was without official information as to the efficiency and trustworthiness of nurses applying for service. The nurses themselves desired this state of affairs to change and the only opposition to the proposed legislation was from untrained nurses. Proper provision was made in the Act to safeguard their interests without endangering those of the public.

*From "Evening Star," Washington, D.C.*

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