

Educational Progress at the Royal Infirmiry, Edinburgh. The Scottish Nurses' Association

The Managers of the Royal Infirmiry, Edinburgh, have decided on making the training for nurses a four years' course, and the new terms of engagement will affect all probationers entering after January 1st, 1911. The three years' training was instituted in Edinburgh 21 years ago, and since then the work and various departments of the Royal Infirmiry have greatly developed and increased. The daily average of patients last year was 842, and the hospital has many advantages to offer in the way of special training for nurses. The Managers consider that the change in the term of training is not merely desirable, but necessary, in the interests of the hospital, and of the training of the nurses.

A recent development of the Training School is the Board of Direction of the Education and Examination of Nurses which was appointed this year by the Managers. Among the duties of the new Board are to arrange the curriculum, appoint lecturers, supervise the examinations, and to report from time to time to the Board of Managers on the education of the nurses.

We congratulate the Managers of the Royal Infirmiry, Edinburgh, on this progressive step. The organisation of a thorough curriculum for nurses is an example which will have to be followed by every school. The extension of the term of training is noteworthy. While the authorities of the London Hospital, with 922 beds, allege that in a hospital of that size nurses can be adequately trained in two years, the Managers of the Royal Infirmiry, Edinburgh, with 926 beds, consider that the three years' standard instituted 21 years ago is now insufficient, and that in the interests of the training of the nurses its extension to four years is "not merely desirable but necessary."

Vignettes from Life.

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS.

The following true story illustrates the point of view of the superficially trained nurse of her relation to her experienced Superintendent.

Queen's Superintendent to Village Nurse: You seem to have worked very hard, Nurse, while you were training at—

Nurse (complacently): Of course, we had to. We have to learn in nine months what it takes you four years to learn.

Nothing gives us more pleasure than to record the growing interest in their professional affairs by Scottish nurses, and the second annual meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association, held in the Masonic Hall, West Regent Street, Glasgow, on Saturday last, when Sir William Macewen, president, occupied the chair, was a very successful gathering.

Dr. P. H. Robertson submitted the annual report, which stated that since the association was founded in July, 1909, a large membership had been attained, and the association had had an important and beneficial influence on the course of nursing politics. Reference was made to the steps taken by the association in connection with the question of nurses' registration, and it was stated that there was now before Parliament a single Bill, supported by every nurses' association in the three kingdoms and by the British Medical Association. That Bill provided for the establishment of one system of registration for the United Kingdom, based on the one portal principle. Special consideration had been given by the association to the case of fever nurses, and important steps had been taken to render their position more secure under the Bill. The question of establishing association rooms for the use of members was still under the consideration of the executive. The financial statement showed that there was a credit balance of £42.

Dr. John Patrick, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it seemed to him that the only two professions which had for their life work the benefit and welfare of the people—he meant the nursing and medical professions—were about the worst organised of any of the professions. So far as the nurses were concerned the report submitted showed that a new era was being entered upon (in Scotland). Nurses should be well organised to ensure efficient training, and also that they might receive their proper position as members of a professional body.

The report was adopted, and the following office-bearers were elected:—

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Strong, Miss Aitken, Miss F. Tisdall, Miss Wright, Miss Donald, and Dr. McGregor Robertson.

Secretaries: Dr. Hamilton Robertson and Miss Finn.

Treasurer: Miss Kathleen Burleigh.

Sixteen nurse members and eight medical members were elected to the Executive Committee.

Miss E. Stevenson had intimated that she did not wish re-election as Vice-President or on the

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