

scheme proposed and circulated by the Fulham Guardians, on the initiative of the Infirmity Medical Superintendents Society, in regard to the training and examination of probationers in Metropolitan Infirmaries—the Infirmity Matrons' Association, by whom the scheme was discussed considered that it should apply to the whole country. It is proposed that before receiving their certificates probationers should be required to pass an examination conducted by a Board consisting of three Medical Superintendents, three infirmity Matrons, and four persons nominated by the Local Government Board, two of whom may be women.

#### THE TRAINING OF FEVER NURSES.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board in the early part of the year, after taking expert advice from the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the Board's Hospitals, and after conference with the Matrons of ten of the large general hospitals of London, decided to amend the wages scale in respect of the nursing staff in the 'hospitals' service, and with the object of improving the standing and character of the Board's nursing staff to create the grade of Sister in place of that of Charge Nurse, with increased duties, responsibilities, privileges, and pay. To create the grades of Staff Nurse and probationer, and to abolish the positions of permanent Superintendent of Night Nurses (employing Sisters in this capacity for not more than twelve months consecutively); Assistant Nurse (Class I.), and, in the acute fever hospitals, that of Assistant Nurse (Class II.). The Board also adopted for use in the Managers' Hospitals the schedule of ward instruction and the syllabus of lectures drawn up by the Fever Nurses' Association, and decided to give a certificate of proficiency in fever nursing to probationers who had spent two years in the Managers' Fever Service, provided their work and general conduct had been satisfactory, and they had passed the necessary examination.

#### COLONIAL NURSING.

The Colonial Nursing Association continues to do good service in providing trained nurses for British Colonies, and Dependencies, and other British Communities abroad, both for private and hospital work, and the reports received by the Home Committee of the work of many of these nurses show how great a boon is conferred on Colonies where British residents, but for the good offices of the Association, would be without the assistance of trained nurses in sickness.

#### MENTAL NURSING.

New regulations have been drawn up by the

Medico-Psychological Association in connection with the examination for its Nursing Certificate, including a preliminary examination, the first to be held in May, 1911. The new regulations, which involve two examinations, will not apply to candidates who commenced their training before November, 1910.

#### PRIVATE NURSING.

The private nursing world still continues in a condition of chaos, including on the one hand some of the most highly trained, skilful, and trustworthy nurses in the profession, on the other all sorts and conditions of women, whose professional knowledge and personal character will not bear investigation, and who are only able to pursue their profitable exploitation of the public because so far no standard of professional education is demanded of nurses by the State, and no Governing Body has been constituted to exercise disciplinary control in the ranks of trained nurses. The sick public are thus at the mercy of any specious woman who possesses sufficient assurance to be able to impose upon them.

#### DISTRICT NURSING.

The most important and influential association concerned with the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes in the United Kingdom is Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The nurses accepted as Queen's nurses must now have a three years' certificate of training, besides special district training, before enrolment, and a midwifery certificate is also desirable. But, in addition to this body of highly skilled workers, the Institute throws the mantle of its protection in England and Wales over a large number of women (as a rule midwives, with a short term of training in general nursing), who rank as Village Nurses, an arrangement which, to many, has always been a subject of regret.

As the work of the Institute grows, fresh openings for the work of the nurses constantly occur; thus in combatting tuberculosis the services of Queen's Nurses have been largely requisitioned, while a number are Inspectors in connection with the Midwives' Act.

In Scotland, the work of Queen's Nurses is being sought by the Medical Officers of Health in connection with the inspection of school children.

In Ireland the reports of the Inspectors continue to show the special value of the nurses' work in improving the general conditions of health among the people.

#### SCHOOL NURSING.

The development of the Medical Inspection of School Children has caused a simultaneous development in the number of School Nurses

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)