

appointed to consider them. Among the principles incorporated are the restriction of the term, "registered sick nurse," and the limitation of State recognition to those who have obtained the State certificate, also that only women holding the State certificate may be appointed to responsible positions in institutions which are training schools for nurses.

In Finland.—In Finland Regulations for Nurses, including a State examination, and the publication of a State Register, have been approved by the Medical Board, and have been before the Senate. So far the assent of the Czar (of Russia), which is necessary before these regulations can become law, has not been notified.

In Sweden.—In Sweden the Swedish Nurses Association, with headquarters at Stockholm, has been formed, with Sister Emmy Lindhagen as President, and a Governing Body consisting of nine nurses.

In Spain.—The hospital and training school for nurses, established in Madrid in 1896, and called after its founder, Dr. Rubio, the Rubio Institute, has now been placed in charge of Sister Marie Zomak, a member of the German Nurses' Association. It is the first secular school for nurses in Spain, and up to the time Sister Marie took up office the nurses had been required to shave their heads and wear purple caps with yellow strings, and also to wear only sandals on their stockingless feet. Forty or more hours' continuous duty every fourth or fifth day was also the rule. Now all this has been altered, and regular day and night duty established.

In China.—The trained nurses in China have formed an Association which is known as the "Nurses' Association of China." The editors of the *China Medical Journal* have offered space for a nurses' department, and plans are being made for similar departments in some of the Chinese papers.

In Japan.—In Japan nursing is highly organised through the Red Cross Society, the hospitals of which, in time of peace are used for civil purposes. Each Red Cross nurse is required to undergo three years' training, after which she is free to undertake other work, but is bound to the Society for fifteen years should her services be required.

THE EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

The most important event connected with the Educational Movement has been the formation of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses composed of delegates from the British Medical Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Society

for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, the Association for Promoting the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Irish Nurses' Association. This Committee held its first meeting on January 25th, under the presidency of Lord Ampthill, and, as a result of the Conference, all united to support one Bill in the place of the three previously before Parliament, thus concentrating all the forces in favour of State Registration on its promotion.

One of the strongest proofs of the need for the organisation of nursing education, and for the establishment and maintenance of professional standards by an expert authority, analagous to the General Medical Council, was afforded in connection with the recent vacancy in the Matronship of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

When applications for the vacant Matronship were invited by advertisement the only conditions imposed were that "candidates must be certificated nurses, and of an age not exceeding 40 years." Thus every young staff nurse holding a certificate of an indefinite length could apply for the post, while distinguished pupils of the school from amongst whom the Governors of the hospital would have secured a Matron who had already given evidence of her ability in this capacity, were excluded by the age limit.

The Governors neither required that candidates for appointment as the head of this great educational establishment should be gentlewomen, that they should have fulfilled the term of training required of every nurse graduated from their own school for the past 30 years, or that they should have given proof of administrative ability by holding successfully the position of Matron of a hospital, or Superintendent of a Nurse Training School.

Incredible as it seems, the Treasurer and Governors appointed to this honourable position a lady holding the inferior qualification of a two years' certificate of training, who had never held the position of Matron. When a standard of education for nurses and matrons is legally defined such a gross depreciation of professional standards by unprofessional persons will be rendered impossible.

A second instance is that to which we have referred in recent issues—of the deplorable effect of the new General Powers Act of the London County Council in regard to Nurses' Employment Agencies. The Act, as legally interpreted, classes co-operations of highly qualified private nurses with agencies for variety stage purposes, and lay-managed domestic agencies, which supply uncertificated

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)