

on the Statute Book of these Realms, and no one knows this better than the nursing monopolists and proprietors of lay nursing journals, who have most unworthily attempted to prevent it. We are just as happy as can be about Registration, and we speak from intimate personal experience of every movement for and against in the campaign for the past quarter of a century. Nursing a Profession—that is what we Registrationists want, and we are going on working till we get it.

Dr. Dillon on Nursing Unity.

Dr. A. T. Dillon, Croydon, presented a very interesting paper on "Poor Law Nursing: Past, Present, and Future," at a general meeting of the Surrey Branch of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, recently held at the Epsom Workhouse. The first part had reference to the work of Louisa Twining, described as the Florence Nightingale of the Poor Law nursing world. In 1853, said Dr. Dillon, she paid her first visit that led to her discovery of the then existing evils in every branch of the Poor Law Service. She found old people neglected, the sick uncared for, and young women beyond the pale of reformation.

Dr. Dillon alluded to the pioneer work done in Liverpool, and said his primary object in writing the paper was to draw the attention of the Association to the fact that the Poor Law nurse considered herself hardly done by in seeking Poor Law appointments. She said that the hospital nurse got all the plums. He was not quite satisfied as to the entire justice of the complaint; nevertheless the feeling was there, and to the Association she looked for the remedy. In the past, when the service was in its embryonic stage, it was salutary, nay, it was even essential, that hospital nurses were secured. Matters had an entirely different complexion to-day. He was confident, other things being equal, that the probationer who entered the service and discharged her duties in the proper spirit, carried the Marshal's baton in her knapsack.

The Poor Law nurse might look with no small sense of optimism to the future. This might be truly termed the golden age of something accomplished, something done. They were treading the path of human progress, and in this great social scheme he had an abiding faith that the training of the Poor Law nurse *par excellence* aptly fitted her to play no mean part. They must break away from the parish pump principle, and keep pace with the spirit of the time. There were manifest symptoms that at heart this great Empire, over which

the sun never sets, was organically sound. Her pulses throbbed with rhythmic regularity, reacting in sympathetic response to her vital and constitutional needs. Scanning the horizon, was he too Utopian in picturing a unified scheme of nursing, a vista where the hospital nurse and her infirmary sister might be found labouring side by side in alleviating human pain?

Both Dr. Dillon and others expressed the opinion that the Poor Law nurse was equal to, if not ahead, of the hospital nurse.

Why should all managers of nurse training schools—voluntary hospital and Poor Law—claim that all their ducks are swans? This attitude makes the wrench from the parish pump almost impossible. We are heartily in accord with Dr. Dillon's aspirations for a unified scheme of nursing, and hope he will help to push forward the Nurses' Registration Bill, which can alone accomplish this desirable reform.

Reciprocal Training.

It is pleasant to note from the Treasurer's Annual Report that the scheme of the late Matron for reciprocity of nurse training between St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the Metropolitan Asylums' Board has, after prolonged negotiations, been entered into under the following conditions:—(1) Candidates, after two years' service under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, to enter as probationers provided they are considered suitable by the Matron and pass the necessary medical examination. (2) The two years under the Board to count as one year at St. Bartholomew's. (3) The number of candidates to be received not to exceed eight annually. (4) The candidates will be required to pass the ordinary nurses' examination of St. Bartholomew's at the end of first and third years; and (5) if proficient they will receive at the end of such three years the ordinary certificate of training of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

This is the most progressive step in the direction of a complete curriculum for nurses, which has been established for some time. No doubt other large general hospitals will follow suite.

A large congregation of nurses attended the Annual Service of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses at St. Alban's, Holborn, E.C., on Tuesday evening last, when the Bishop of Lebombo preached. The Annual Meeting, afterwards held at the Holborn Hall, was addressed by the Bishop, the Archdeacon-elect of London, and others.

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