

to the handsome extent of £1,000 each. So far good, but when the munificence of the testator provides that on the death of the last of his grandchildren the reversionary interest in an estate valued for probate purposes at £50,000 passes to the two hospitals in equal moieties, we cannot approve. People have no right to disinherit their descendants in support of charitable institutions, however well managed they are.

REGISTRATION IN QUEENSLAND.

The Hon. Secretary of the Society for State Registration has received the following letter of thanks from Queensland:—

DEAR MADAM,—Your letter of the 15th ult., containing congratulations to the Nurses of Queensland, duly received.

Please convey many thanks to the members of your Society for their good wishes. A remembrance such as they have sent us is very much appreciated, and serves to bring us more in touch with our fellow-workers on the other side of the globe.

You have the good wishes of the nurses of Australia for the success of your Society and the accomplishment of State Registration for Nurses. As far as we can judge it is much more necessary in Great Britain than with us.

Again, with many thanks,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

E. L. HUNTER,

Hon. Sec. Queensland Branch,
Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

NURSING IN VICTORIA.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MISS GRETTA LYONS.

The visit to this country of Miss Gretta Lyons, a prominent member of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, has afforded the opportunity of hearing in detail something of the position of nursing matters in that Colony.

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION.

In the first place, although the organization of nursing is at present on a voluntary basis, through the above Association, it is in advance of this country inasmuch as all the principal hospitals in the Colony have adopted the standard defined by the Association, and probationers have to pass its examination before registration so that there is uniformity of training. The nursing homes also are registered, and a condition of being so is that they only employ registered nurses.

EXAMINATION FOR MATRONS.

Further the Association has also established an examination for matrons and housekeeping

sisters conducted partly *viva-voce* by a matron, and partly on paper, including questions on finance, supplies, the teaching and supervision of nurses, and similar subjects; and it has approached the hospitals to support it in maintaining the value and prestige of this certificate when making appointments to Matronships, by selecting a candidate who holds this certificate; and the authorities have as a rule conformed to this request and loyally supported the Association in its effort to raise the standard for Matrons and therefore that of nursing education.

NURSES SHOULD PRESIDE.

The President of the Association is Miss Ayres, until recently Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne; but on her resignation of her appointment she also asked the Association for leave of absence, as she proposed to pay a visit to South Africa. This was granted, Dr. Featherstone, the Vice-President, being deputed to act as Chairman meanwhile. It is much to be hoped, however, should Miss Ayres' prolonged absence necessitate the appointment of another President, that it will realize the advisability of appointing a nurse member of the Association to this office. However well disposed members of the medical profession may be towards nurses, they have not the same outlook on, or knowledge of, nursing matters as nurses themselves; moreover, if medical and nursing interests happen to clash, their sympathy and influence is naturally with their own profession. The guiding influence and voting power in the hands of a nurses' association should therefore be limited to the nurse members; members of the medical profession acting in an honorary and consultative capacity.

NURSE EDITORS.

The same remarks apply with equal or, if possible, with greater force to the control of nurses' journals. We have often wondered why the Journal of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, which should reflect and voice nursing opinion, seemed so colourless and so devoid of the true nursing note. But the explanation is found in the fact that it is not edited by a nurse, and so naturally cannot deal with nursing matters from a nursing standpoint. We cannot too emphatically counsel all associations of nurses to keep the control and ownership of their journals in their own hands under the direction of a professional editor. To possess a voice in the Press is of supreme importance; and the only means of doing so is for

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