

work? That they are allowed to compete in private nursing with those who have obtained their certificates only after three years' arduous self-sacrifice, is a great injustice, and must often discourage the real nurse. But as concerns the public, it is disastrous. A nurse without proper training is apt to learn experience only from her own blunders; and blunders in executing the doctor's orders upon the living body are hazardous things, and may kill the patient. The only remedy for this unjust and serious state of things is the registration of professional nurses by a General Council appointed by the State, the standardisation of their training, and the definition and enforcement of a minimum standard of knowledge. If all hospitals were large and efficiently appointed, much of the present difficulty would disappear, for then the opportunities for training would be more or less equalised, and a more uniform standard of efficiency would result. Even in this case there would still remain the difficulty that each training school would have its own minimum requisite of efficiency for the granting of certificates. The actual state of affairs, however, is chaotic and most unfair. There are hundreds of institutions differing immensely in value as training schools, each of which, after a private examination of its own, can grant certificates qualifying their recipients as fully-trained nurses. The time has come when it should not be possible for any institution, whatever the number of beds it may contain, to grant nursing certificates unless it have a superintendent nurse and a resident medical officer. Speaking purely from the point of view of the training of nurses, the medical staff is next in importance to the superintendent nurse. The influence of the medical staff is not confined merely to that arising from courses of lectures. Nurses are bound by their position to render loyal obedience to the medical staff. Indeed, the whole system of trained nursing depends upon this attitude. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that medical officers should be such as will command the respect of the nurses, as well from the personal as from the professional point of view. The medical side of most poor law hospitals of any considerable size affords splendid clinical material for the medical training of nurses. The kind of case treated, and the nursing required, although often tedious and, perhaps, comparatively uninteresting, bulks very largely in the work of nursing which most nurses eventually take up. It must be admitted that the status of the training profession would be raised, and the general public greatly benefited, by the institution of a standard curriculum of training, a system of central examination independent of particular training schools, the granting of uniform certificates, and the registration of trained nurses

STATE REGISTRATION CERTAIN AND
DESIRABLE.

It is as certain as it is desirable, that State registration of all professional nurses will sooner

or later be placed on the Statute Book, and it behoves poor law authorities to be ready to meet such an event, and even to anticipate its effect, in increasing the standard of efficiency which will be required of nurses, by making the fullest use of the splendid training schools which their largest hospitals provide.

Mr. G. T. W. Newesholme (Sheffield) said that there should be one standard of nursing for all the country.

Mr. Eastman (Sulcoates) said he hoped the Executive would give attention to the matter, and formulate some scheme based on the suggestions of the doctor.

Miss M. K. Lea, Local Government Board Inspector (trained at the London Hospital), said she did not favour registration.

THE RESOLUTION.

Mr. J. H. Bentham (Bradford) moved the following resolution: That this conference is of opinion the public would be greatly benefited by the proper registration of hospital nurses on the lines laid down in Mr. Ferguson's Bill, and that the Executive Committee should consider and report on the suggestions for a combination of Yorkshire Unions, so that registration in the county might be effected.

Mr. Pearson (Bramley) seconded.

Mr. Walker (Wortley) said the whole question was one of £ s. d., and so long as they paid their nurses at so poor a rate, so long would they have inferior women and nurses not up to their work. To get a better standard of nurses they should be prepared to pay reasonably for the work done.

The resolution was carried.

The President expressed hearty thanks to Dr. Slater for the excellence of his paper.

Dr. Slater, in reply, said he wished to emphasise the necessity for thorough training of nurses. He strongly favoured State Registration.

We offer warm thanks to Dr. Holroyd Slater for his enlightened advocacy of legal status for trained nurses, and we feel that thousands of well-trained nurses working under the Poor Law, will desire to be associated with THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in its appreciation of his valuable support.

A NOTORIOUS BOGUS NURSE.

At Bow Street Police Court, on Monday, Jane Whittington, 43, was charged with theft.

It was stated that on September 10th, Mrs Cook, Northwick Terrace, attended a service at St Faith's Chapel, Westminster Abbey. She left her umbrella and on returning found that it had gone. On the same day Edith Twidale missed a handbag which she had beside her.

Detective Lawrence said that the defendant was a frequenter of the Abbey. She was an associate of a notorious bogus nurse who was now undergoing imprisonment for theft at the Abbey.

Sentence: Six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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