

That latter opinion we fear is true in many instances. Good character and good health are indispensable qualifications in a probationer—but the omission of an educational test is largely responsible for the deterioration of nursing as a profession, and for the strain on those who have to make bricks without straw.

We regret to learn that the humane suggestions made by Mrs. Hooper, of the Tendring Board of Guardians, met with so little sympathy from her male colleagues. Mrs. Hooper (Clacton) moved: (1) That the aged, sick and dying in the Infirmary be supplied when desired with soft pillows; (2) that instead of iron enamelled mugs for them to drink out of there shall be china mugs in the Infirmary wards; and (3) that if it is not possible to always have someone on duty to summon a nurse in case of a patient requiring attention, there shall be a bell at the side of each bed in the ward in which the patients are confined to their beds.

A lengthy discussion took place upon the resolution, but little support was accorded by the Board, the resolution being defeated by an overwhelming majority, only the proposer and seconder, Mr. North, voting in its favour.

Poor old people!

The Scottish Council of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute has desired affiliated Nursing Associations to make a fixed charge for the service of nurses in the case of insured persons, but the Forfar Committee decided at a recent meeting that for the present this should not be done, as the original object of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses was that the sick poor should have the nursing free.

We have received a most interesting letter from Sister Katherine H. Wheatley from Constantinople on the work she is doing at Broussa under the British Red Crescent Society, amongst the widows and orphans of soldiers' families. It is an excellent bit of practical work, and proves once more how invaluable are the services of the educated trained nurse in times of war, not only in the sick ward, but in helping to readjust the social conditions of the poor people, who are left to starve and suffer when the flaming King of destruction has passed their way. All over the world in these days the nurse's uniform inspires confidence in the primitive mind, so that in war amateur nurses from royalty downwards would have little hope of success, unless they adopted it.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

The special hospitals throughout the country are doing a great and indispensable work for the community, and foremost amongst these are the hospitals for sick children, which do so much to raise the standard of national health, and to alleviate a large amount of suffering amongst a most pathetic class of patients.

In the busy and populous city of Hull the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children is doing excellent work which merits the generous support of all the citizens. The hospital, which is situated in Park Street, has 77 beds for in-patients, and a large out-patient department, attended by some 1,000 out-patients weekly. The Hon. Medical Staff includes Dr. Mary Murdoch, well known far beyond the city for her public spirited work. The House Surgeon, the Assistant House Surgeon and the Pharmacist are also women.

The Matron, Miss Dora Lyon, trained at the London Hospital, whose bright and charming personality makes her an especially valuable officer in a hospital for children, was appointed to the position between two and three years ago. She has had the advantage of working in America, and of contact with such great leaders of our profession as Miss Nutting and Miss Dock. She is keenly interested in educational questions, and in the efficient training of the nurses under her direction. She deplores the difficulty, increasingly felt by so many matrons, of obtaining well educated probationers, but insists on a certain standard of general education, as she holds it to be no part of her duty, in lecturing to her pupils, to add grammar to the syllabus of subjects taught. She considers that the valuable knowledge and skill obtained in a children's hospital should be taken into account in a nurse's training; as no doubt it will be, through co-operation between groups of hospitals, when a Nurses' Registration Act is placed upon the Statute Book. A visit to the well-ordered wards shows that a large number of serious cases are treated there. A baby operated on for double hare lip was just being delivered into its mother's charge, with many instructions as to the need for care. Several other equally successful cases were to be seen in the wards.

The cots in use are of a specially good pattern, being high enough to obviate the strain

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