

It is a very poor standard of charity which provides for the sick poor anything but the best.

If safe and adequate nursing for the poor cannot be provided under the voluntary system, then the State must step in and assume the responsibility.

#### SCHOOL NURSING.

What has been said as to the standard for district nurses applies, equally, to that for school nurses. Under the London County Council school nurses are required to be "fully certificated after a course of three years' hospital training," and no less a standard is adequate.

In the provinces the appointment of school nurses is often combined with that of Health Visitor and Inspector of Midwives. The combination of practical midwifery with school nursing is not desirable, as school nurses are liable to contact with infection.

#### THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

The working of the National Insurance Act of 1911 reveals the fact anticipated by trained nurses that a most important factor in the care of the insured sick has been omitted by the failure to provide trained nursing as one of the benefits.

The Committee appointed by the Conference recently convened by the Association of Approved Societies is now considering the whole question, and its suggestions are awaited with a considerable amount of interest.

So far as it affects nurses the Act is very unpopular, as for the most part they formerly received, as a gift, benefits for which they are now compelled to pay.

#### THE EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

An influential deputation organized by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses which waited on the Premier in May last to urge him to give facilities for the Nurses Registration Bill in the House of Commons, did not succeed in obtaining the time they desired. Events have, however, since proved that the question must before long engage the attention of Parliament. The diminution in the numbers, and the depreciation in the educational quality, of young women applying for training as nurses, and the increasing difficulty experienced in either obtaining probationers or well qualified nurses throughout the various branches of the Nursing Service are proof that intelligent women will not undergo a severe and prolonged training in nursing if, at its termination, they are not accorded some adequate legal recognition of

their skilled work. Nursing is the only branch of the healing art excluded from such recognition and protection. Further, the scandals in connection with the abuse of nurses' uniform have been so flagrant, that, in the interests both of the public, and of trained nurses, legislation, which will give the profession power to protect its honour, and moral standards, cannot for long be delayed.

#### SCOTLAND.

In Scotland both matrons and nurses are consolidating their organizations, the former in the Scottish Matrons Association, which, founded over three years ago, continues to have a satisfactorily increasing roll of members, and both Matrons and Nurses through the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, the Scottish Nurses Association, and the Scottish Society of Trained Nurses.

The Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses has continued to maintain the recognized standard for Queen's Nurses for all nurses working under its supervision, and we hope the proposal to organize County Nursing Associations will not result in any deterioration of the standard of nursing for the sick poor.

#### IRELAND.

The vitality of the Irish Nurses Association was apparent from the way in which it organized the Nursing Conference, held in Dublin in June, the effect of which was not only to afford trained nurses an opportunity of discussing professional matters of much importance, but to impress the public with the dignity, importance and solidarity of the nursing profession.

#### TWO NOTABLE BOOKS.

Events of the year in the nursing world have been the publication of two books of the first importance, the third and fourth volumes of "A History of Nursing," by Miss L. L. Dock, and "The Life of Florence Nightingale," by Sir Edward Cook.

In her preface to the third volume of the History, Miss Dock explains that the assistance which she obtained from trained nurses in the countries dealt with "is one of the fine fruits of international friendship and comradeship grown from the International Council of Nurses." Miss Dock has placed the whole nursing profession under a debt of gratitude for her masterly presentation of the subjects dealt with.

Sir Edward Cook has also earned our gratitude by presenting Miss Nightingale to us, not in the rôle of idealized saint, assigned to her

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