

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,505.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1917.

Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

EDUCATIONISTS AND NURSING.

It is a healthy sign that educationists are beginning to show an active interest in the training of nurses and the conditions under which that training is carried out.

We have before us an important circular letter signed by Miss A. E. Escott, President of the Association of Head Mistresses, and Miss Reta Oldham, Chairman of the Openings for Girls Sub-Committee, which is being sent to Secretaries of Hospitals with the request that it may be submitted to the Governing Body of the hospital, and stating that the signatories will be glad to be informed how far the conditions which they detail as essential in so responsible a profession as that of Nursing if they are to feel able to recommend their pupils to enter it, more especially at the present time when so many professions are open to girls of secondary education, obtain in that institution.

It is obvious that a society of Head Mistresses, representing 400 public secondary schools for girls with approximately 50,000 pupils, can exercise a strong influence in advising girls to enter the nursing profession, or in preventing them from doing so. Head Mistresses, as they point out, are frequently consulted both by parents and pupils as to professions and openings for girls leaving school, and the most suitable training in the different callings for women. With their knowledge of the capacity and powers of their pupils, and of their individual bent, they are often in a position to prevent a girl from entering on a career for which she is not altogether fitted, and to suggest an opening where her education and gifts of character and mind will find the widest scope in the service of others.

The Sub-Committee of the Association which has recently considered the Nursing

Profession as an opening for girls educated in secondary schools have formulated the following statement:

“Careful consideration of the conditions which prevail in the training of the Nursing Profession has led us to the conclusion that the reform most urgently needed is the provision of a standard professional examination obligatory for all who desire to become Nurses. We can imagine no step which would have so important an effect in raising the status of that noble profession. At present, a girl is dependent for both training and examination on individual hospitals, and the standard of the training offered varies, not only in different hospitals, but in the same hospital at different dates. We suggest that, just as the University of London has certain constituent colleges in which students for internal degrees study, certain hospitals could be chosen to provide the standard conditions for the training of Nurses, but the examination for the nursing diploma should like those for the degrees of the University of London be open to external as well as to internal students. In the selected hospitals for candidates for the internal examinations, practically uniform conditions should prevail. We venture to enumerate below what these appear in our judgment to be, and to express the belief that if some such standard of training and conditions were set up, more and more hospitals would approximate to it, to the permanent advantage of the future members of a great and indispensable profession. (1) Eight hours' shifts, leaving definite time for study and lectures. (2) Regular meal hours and well-cooked food, with sufficient time to eat it. (3) Properly planned recreation times, known beforehand by the nurses. (4) Residence in good and well-kept quarters. (5) A library of books for reference. (6) Sufficient practice in dressings. (In hospitals where students

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)