

addition of this word to its name. But being only a union of working women, some courageous and most chivalrous gentlemen think it must be, and can very safely be, opposed. These brave gentlemen therefore have held a meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital, and have drawn up certain resolutions, upon which we will comment next week. Their nett result, however, is that they mean to oppose permission being given to the Royal British Nurses' Association to be registered with the omission of the word Limited after its name! Such a depth of petty malice is almost incredible, and we only hope that the Association will take advantage of the occasion to show the public the persistent hostility and cowardly persecution to which its Members have been subjected. In another column we give an extract from the *Lancet* on the subject, and look forward with much curiosity to see what position the Journal of the Association adopts upon the matter.

☞ TO OUR READERS.—Part II. of "Obstetric Nursing," by "Obstetrica, M.B.N.A.," will commence in our issue of April 2.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING IN VICTORIA.

BY MRS. E. E. MORRIS.

I.—THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

JUDGING by the length of training given in the best British Hospitals, we should infer that the time of training for a Medical and Surgical Nurse should extend over three years. To be qualified in Midwifery, six months' training is thought to be sufficient. The six months devoted to the Midwifery branch of Nursing might be included in the three years of a general course.

Those who wish to go through the course of training should pay a small entrance fee, pass an examination to ensure that they have had a good general education, and present certificates from a clergyman or teacher, testifying to their good moral character, and from a Physician, stating that they are in sound health.

The first month should be a time of trial, and during that time the authorities can decide whether the applicant is fitted for the arduous

work of a Nurse for the sick. No salary should be given for the trial month, but after its close a graduated salary should be paid to all.

Probationers should be taught the right way to scrub a room, light a fire, clean and disinfect vessels, &c., but such work as scrubbing floors should not be demanded after the first three months, except upon emergency. Night duty should not form part of a Nurse's work during the first three months of her training, nor should it afterwards be continued for more than six months at a time.

It is not desirable that a Nurse should be sent to cases outside a Hospital as a "Trained Nurse" during the time of her training, or at any rate until the first two years of that training have been passed through. Besides the training gained in the Hospitals, regular courses of lectures should be delivered to the Probationers on the various subjects and branches of their work, among which practical sick room cookery should not fail to find a place.

Examinations, both written and practical, should be held every six months, and at the end of three years there should be a final examination, on passing which the Nurse goes forth as a certificated trained Nurse. In the United States it is usual to call this "graduation."

For the purpose of these examinations it would be well to institute a Central Board of Examiners, whose chairman should be appointed by Government. This board, which of course would consist of medical men, should be as representative of the various Hospitals as possible, but it is advisable that lecturers should not be permitted to examine their own pupils.

It would probably be better that the time of training should be divided between different Hospitals, so that a Nurse may have as varied an experience of her work as possible. Part of the time might be spent in country Hospitals, but all examinations for all Nurses under training in any Hospital in Victoria should be controlled and arranged for by the Central Board of Examiners, and that Board alone should have the right to grant certificates to those whom they consider worthy to possess them.

Probationers should rise in position according to the place taken by them at the half-yearly examinations. The authorities should insist that uniform be worn from the first, but some little difference could be introduced to mark the different grades. In no case, and at no season of

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