

hospitals on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and have reluctantly come to the conclusion that these ladies have sacrificed their professional rights and interests all along the line, and that by consenting to the registration of specialists, they are prepared to undermine the whole fabric of efficient education and training, and standards of registration, for the nursing profession as a whole.

THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS.

The practice of any special branch of nursing should be based on a sound knowledge of the principles of general nursing. The medical student does not study specialities until after he has studied general medicine, and this principle should be applied in the teaching of nurses, if they are to become practical, all-round practitioners, qualified for promotion in their profession.

The grouping of special diseases in special hospitals, is, we believe, greatly for the benefit of sick persons, as special knowledge and skill are thus provided for their treatment; but unless those who attend them have general training which can best be acquired in the general hospital ward, special hospitals fall short of the ideal.

On the other hand, all-round practitioners must have clinical experience in the care of contagious diseases, women's, children's, maternity and other special branches of nursing.

In special hospitals in the past the training of nurses has fitted them to attend special classes of patients only; they have met the needs of the institutions, and become very skilful in such branches of nursing. This system was, of course, economically advantageous for the management, but not so for the nurses partially trained, and the professional career of such nurses is either restricted, or the public is sacrificed to the ignorance of the specialist nurse. Nurses trained in special hospitals have not a free field of practice, and any provision in a Registration Bill which would perpetuate this partial training and recognise it as complete, is most unfair to the nurse, however agreeable to the managers of special hospitals. Such nurses are excluded from service in Government Departments, from high and well-remunerated positions in general hospitals, and from the best organised co-operations of private nurses.

Yet the special hospitals must be nursed, and under a just system of registration the fine clinical material they contain, and the highly specialised treatment the patients receive, could be utilised to the utmost under a well-considered system of reciprocal training "in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals," as provided for in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee; so that through curricula defined by the General Nursing Council all this valuable experience could be made available for teaching, and co-ordinated, and each probationer taught the principles of general nursing, upon which the superstructure of special nursing should be based, which would fit her for the Central Examination, and for a place, if successful, on the Women's

General Register, and secure for her the protected title of "Registered Nurse."

Nurses trained only in special hospitals cannot be registered without sacrificing the nurse's career to the supposed needs of special hospitals; and the fact that the College of Nursing Council is prepared to cut at the root of sound nursing education and sacrifice the nurse to the hospital by agreeing to register specialists, is only one more proof of the danger of the organisation of a skilled profession by lay employers, and persons who ignore the opinion and the rights of the class to be governed.

In this connection the following quotation will prove to nurses trained in special hospitals how the registration of specialists would affect their status in public opinion.

Upon the issue of the new Army Council Instruction that V.A.D.s are to be promoted to be Assistant Nurses in Military Hospitals, we asked for information as to their duties from Headquarters. To quote from the reply:—

"Up till now Assistant Nurses have been persons who have only two years' training in a Women's, Infants', or Fever Hospital, and I am therefore quite sure you will agree with me that a V.A.D. member who has worked in a Military Hospital for two years has had an equally good training."

As we do not recognise experience in a military hospital as "training" in the true acceptance of the word, our advice to Committees of special hospitals is to see, for the future, that by a system of reciprocal training their nurses shall be classed as thoroughly trained, that they shall be eligible for the General Register, and that promotion may be theirs by right. Apparently they are now classed as amateurs.

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ALHAMBRA FOR THE "NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES."

On Sunday, March 17th, an entertainment was held at this theatre of varieties in aid of this scheme. It certainly was a *variety* entertainment! We can make a shrewd guess why the Day of Rest was chosen to propagate this charity. Nurses are ubiquitous, however, and two of them turned up as usual, and gave leaflets to those who passed in, informing them of the objections of some of the nation's nurses. "So you don't approve of the College of Nursing?" enquired a benevolent-looking gentleman. "No, we don't; its constitution is most tyrannical," was the emphatic reply. "Well, now, I have only heard their side of the question, but I will give my attention to your side now." That is all we want, and the Press boycott makes it difficult.

SENTINEL.

A bequest of £1,000 to the Great Northern Central Hospital was made by Mrs. Harmon Marimont, of Sydney House, Crouch Hill.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)