

tions. I would urge, therefore, that a course of supplementary education should be defined for those women desirous of fitting themselves for the responsibilities of Superintendent. Perhaps, somewhat on the following lines: When certificated they should be placed in charge as night superintendents and sisters of wards, home sisters and housekeepers, and spend a certain time in the linenry, laundry, and Matron's office. Experience as an Assistant Matron would also be invaluable. A supplementary certificate, for not less than twelve months' work, in such positions might be awarded, signed by the Matron, to those nurses who proved themselves efficient in performing the duties of the various departments. Such a certificate would prove of great value to committees in the selection of superintendents of training schools. Nevertheless, we must remember Rulers are born—not made. We ask for practical training to make them judicious and worthy rulers.

So much for the Standard of Professional Education! EXAMINATIONS.

The important question of examinations stands next on our list, and I would suggest the examination of Probationers should include preliminary, intermediate, and final examinations.

The entrance or preliminary examination might be conducted by the Matron, or Principal, and her assistants, in the domestic arts, practical nursing, and nursing ethics, and by the medical teachers upon elementary anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics, hygiene, and massage, unless the authorities were prepared to accept the Pass Paper of the Central Nursing College.

The intermediate examinations might be passed at the end of eighteen months' practical work in the wards, during which time efficient teaching should have been given by the ward Sisters. This examination also should be conducted by the Principal, and Medical Staff.

The third or final examination, the successful passing of which should entitle candidates to certificates of efficiency, should be conducted by a Central Board, appointed under an Act of Parliament, consisting of Medical Men, and the Principals of Training Schools. Only certificates granted under the authority of that Board should qualify for Registration.

We come now to the vital question of State Registration.

THE REGISTER OF TRAINED NURSES.

In every case it appears to me that the Trained Nurse should be compelled to register

the Certificates which she has received, and that her name and address, therefore, with the date of her registration, and with the account of the hospital training she has received, would be published, each year, in the Register of Trained Nurses. Then the public could at once easily ascertain for themselves, by reference to this book, whether or not any given nurse had been properly educated, and was, therefore, qualified to perform the duties entrusted to her. By this means the women who at present palm themselves off as trained nurses without any right or justification, would be speedily suppressed. Anyone who desired to be nursed by an untrained person would obtain such assistance with full knowledge of the fact; but, on the other hand, those who were deceived by being given the services of an untrained woman, when they sought and paid for the assistance of a skilled worker, would have their direct remedy in a criminal court. A public Register, in fact, would prevent at once the frauds which are now so constantly practised upon the sick public.

The Register of Nurses would be placed under the control and supervision of a body specially appointed by the Act of Parliament, by means of which such a measure could only be obtained. This body, as in the analogous cases of other professions, would be a Council, composed of professional persons, who would lay down the regulations as to the education requisite for admission to the Register; and thus would influence the training given in hospitals, thereby making this both uniform and efficient. At the same time, the Council would possess the power of removing from the Register the name of any nurse who, after a full and proper inquiry, proved to be untrustworthy. By this means the public would once again be directly protected, as nurses would also be, against the black sheep of the calling—by their expulsion from its ranks. The duties of the Council, then, would be to ensure the proper education and subsequent discipline and control of every trained nurse; and with the publication of the State Register of Nurses there would be, for the first time, a definite record and organisation formed of the members of the nursing profession.

This result can only be brought about by Act of Parliament. Any voluntary measure, such as that carried out by the British Nurses' Association, especially now that they have repudiated the principle of Registration, or by the publication of the Nursing Directory, can only be partial and incomplete. Nothing

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