

the "Affiliation of Training Schools for the Education of Nurses." She spoke of the present-day difficulties of the small hospitals. Already probationers were leaving the special hospitals, as they realised that the training offered them would not fit them for the State examinations of the immediate future. No workable scheme of affiliation had yet been produced by the General Nursing Council, and without the co-operation of the lay and medical members of Hospital Boards of Management nothing practical could be done. The difficulties would greatly be lightened if the education of girls in the public schools could include some of the theoretical subjects—elementary science, &c.—that nurses were expected to study later. After all, it is the practical training that counts, and by the adoption of the eight-hours working day in hospitals she already loses six months of her practical training.

The age of admission would have to be lowered. If a girl of eighteen was considered old enough to take up mental and fever nursing, surely she might be allowed to commence her work in a general hospital at the same age. A girl medical student could almost have finished her training by the age at which a woman was generally thought to be fitted for commencing her nursing career.

Training in the past has varied according to the standards of the various training schools, which have differed in the length of their training. Some of the best nurses the speaker had known had been trained in small hospitals. It was the character of the woman, and the spirit in which she trained, that mattered.

The traditions of the past were not to be despised. We had muddled through, in our English way, and "come out on top."

English nurses had gone all over the world, and had been able to adapt themselves to any and every condition. During the war they were considered to have the best training for practical work.

Probably the success of the trained nurses of the past is due to the fact that the superintendents of training schools have not been bound by hard-and-fast rules of training, but have been at liberty to impress their own ideas and methods on their own nurses.

Perhaps we were in danger now of taking the opposite extreme and of being over-organised.

The subject was thrown open for discussion. Miss Flora Hill and Miss Adams were amongst those who spoke.

Afterwards the visitors were entertained to tea by the League.

A small sale of work, contributed by the League members, on behalf of their new Benevolent Fund realised a sum of over £20.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The Fifth Duke of Devonshire said of his cousin, Henry Cavendish: "He is not a gentleman—he works."

From In Whig Society.

By Mabell, Countess of Airlie.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held at 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, June 2nd.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., was in the chair.

Included among the correspondence dealt with was a letter from the Scottish Board of Health, stating that the Board considered that a date between the beginning of October and the end of November would be a suitable one for the present Council retiring from office. There was also submitted a separate letter from the Scottish Board of Health, enquiring whether the Council were now in a position to submit Rules prescribing the manner of election of the elected members of the new Council. The preparation of such rules was remitted to a Committee to deal with.

Two hundred and thirty-nine Applications considered satisfactory by the Registration Committee were passed, and four considered unsatisfactory were refused.

The Report of the small Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the question of a Registered Uniform was submitted. After some discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That the letters 'R.G.N.' should be used to designate a Nurse on the General part of the Register; the letters 'R.M.N.' to designate a Nurse on the Mental Nurses' part of the Register; the letters 'R.N.M.D.' to designate a Nurse on the Register of Nurses for Mental Defectives; the letters 'R.S.C.N.' to designate a Nurse on the Sick Children's Nurses' part of the Register; and the letters 'R.F.N.' to designate a Nurse on the Fever Nurses' part of the Register."

Subject to this, details of the Uniform were remitted to the Registration Committee to consider and report.

Colonel Mackintosh submitted the Report of the Education and Examination Committee, and in terms thereof moved that the Syllabus for Mental Training, which was practically identical with the Syllabus adopted by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, be approved. This was unanimously agreed to.

Unless the letter "S," for "State," precedes the other letters, there is nothing to define the statutory status of a nurse. Any Association can start a Register of Members.

FINLAND AS IT IS.

Out of compliment to our new International President, the Baroness Mannerheim we all want to study Finland. "Finland as it Is," by the late Harry de Windt, F.R.G.S., is a delightful book. It has been placed in the International Library at 431, Oxford Street, W., and is on loan to members of our National Council of Nurses.

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