

up medicine simply for what he can get out of it in money, or reputation, or social prestige; but such men are quite exceptional, and tend to confine their activities to those branches of their art which do not involve direct contact with patients. A Nurse has no such opportunity.

But has State Registration with its inevitable sequel of an ever-rising standard of proficiency, had the effect of producing, in Medicine, a marked deterioration in professional morality? What of the hard, soulless, merciless, scientific doctor, who might have been expected to be the product of all this forced culture? Surely he has failed to appear anywhere in appreciable numbers. On the other hand, the general advance of higher education which followed so closely on central organisation seems everywhere to have been accompanied by an ever-deepening appreciation of the call to personal devotion. Only it is less and less a blind devotion. Under the new conditions it is seen to be an increasingly intelligent and successful combat with disease and suffering and misery. No doctor or Nurse, however filled with learning, could fail to be touched by the tender pathos of a mother kissing her diphtheritic child, but such feelings are not an argument for deprecating the study of Bacteriology. The choice lies rather between an untutored, and largely ineffective, sympathy and an ability, impelled by just the same primary instinct, but guided by knowledge, to meet the situation and, by timely use of a serum, to protect the mother and cure the child.

The day is long past when one could maintain that increase of knowledge was directly inimical to the development of what, for want of a better name, we call the soul. And so I, for one, am all in favour of this reform in the Nursing profession. I hope to see the day when no one will be allowed to take up a course of training without having first passed an examination in general education, of the type of the London Matriculation. I think it is a standing reproach to Nurses that, in most institutions, they cannot be trusted to measure drugs for hypodermic injection. At present this rule is undoubtedly necessary, because so many nurses have never studied enough elementary Physics to know what the graduations mean on a syringe. A friend of mine, with many years' experience of lecturing to Nurses, told me that, in a certain examination, no candidate knew that "A Quarter of Morphia" meant a quarter of a grain! And I have known an experienced Sister quite puzzled to know how to make up a 1-20th grain dose from a tube containing $\frac{1}{4}$ grain tablets. A Nurse cannot afford not to know simple arithmetic. Naturally, if one insisted on such a preliminary examination, many girls would be excluded who have many of the qualities that go towards making a good Nurse, but they lack others which, in these days, are also essential. And, in my opinion, the gain to Nursing, and to the patients, from the superior standard of education that would result, would more than compensate for the exclusion of these less highly endowed persons. These might be stimulated to improve their minds, and try again. Or, failing this, they

might be absorbed in some collateral department of the Hospital, where they would not be directly responsible for the care of patients. Or they could find ample opportunity of valuable service with one of other of the institutions such as the Salvation Army, which are engaged in much-needed social work.

The world is a hard place for women, as long as they are content to drift haphazard, and take their chance under a social system where the balance of opportunity is largely in favour of men. But the tide has, I think, definitely turned, and one can congratulate the Nursing profession on having attained such a degree of self-consciousness as to devise this scheme of State Registration, and to make a very promising beginning with the task of organising the teaching of their art.

DONALD C. NORRIS.

ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

Two Matrons, four Sisters, and four Staff Nurses sailed in *Bræmar Castle* from Southampton on the 14th inst., for service in Irak.

Matrons.—Miss C. Cameron, R.R.C., and Miss L. I. Oliver.

Sisters.—Miss N. Moddrel, Miss B. C. S. Forsyth, Miss V. Crampton, and Miss E. M. Blair.

Staff Nurses.—Miss M. E. Edwards, Miss E. F. Browbank, Miss I. M. Tench, and Miss E. M. Hardwicke.

LEAGUE NEWS.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, PADDINGTON.

A League of Past and Present Members of the Nursing Staff of the above Hospital is in course of formation. Past members possessing the certificate of the hospital, wishing to keep in touch with their training school, are invited to apply for membership to the Hon. Secretary of the League, St. Mary's Hospital, W.2. It is proposed that there shall be an annual meeting during the summer months, and a short summary of the year's doings shall be sent to each member in the January following.

The annual subscription is 2s. 6d., and a bronze badge may be obtained from the Secretary on payment of 2s.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Social Club of the P.U.T.N. are giving a Dance on Friday, October 6th, 1922, at the Holborn Hall, Holborn, London, W.C.

We hope that all members will combine to make it a great success.

Tickets (including refreshments), six shillings each, can be obtained from the Secretary. Please notify early, as arrangements have to be made beforehand.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

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