

of approval and satisfaction. We understand that, in the case of the Cape Colony, after considerable negotiations, the Government carefully examined into the matter, and, at the instance of the Attorney-General, clauses were introduced into the Medical Act, which was then under consideration. As in this country, the great majority of medical men welcomed and strongly supported these clauses, and every Hospital, except one, in the Colony, advocated their adoption. The factious and virulent opposition which has been shown in England was, happily, entirely absent, and finally the Act was passed with almost unanimous approval.

To review briefly, then, the clauses which affect Nurses, it is first provided that the Colonial Medical Council shall grant certificates of competence as Trained Nurses—first, to women who have obtained certificates from various bodies and Hospitals to be hereafter named by the Council; second, to those who can satisfy Examiners—to be appointed by the Council—that they have been efficiently trained and are trustworthy Nurses.

It is next ordained that a Register of Trained Nurses shall be kept by the Council, and that the names of the above women shall be entered upon it, and that the names and addresses of all Registered Nurses shall be published in the month of January in each year, in the Government Gazette.

Then, the Council is empowered to withdraw its Certificate from any Nurse if it is proved that she has become incompetent, or has shown herself to be unworthy of trust as a Trained Nurse.

Now, thus far, it will be observed that the Cape Parliament has entirely adopted the programme of the Royal British Nurses Association with one remarkable and highly significant addition. The Association not only accepts the Certificate of training granted by every recognised Hospital, as a qualification for a Nurse's enrolment upon its Register, but it even accepts proof that a specified course of training has been undergone in Hospitals, as that qualification, in the cases of Institutions which grant no Certificate. The Cape Parliament is not so complaisant. The Institutions whose Certificates the Medical Council is authorised to receive, as qualifications for Registration, have to conform in various particulars to the conditions laid down by the Council. Beyond this, are the examinations conducted by the Council itself, which furnish a direct and independent test of the technical knowledge possessed by candidates.

Loeffund's Hordeum Compounds.—C. Pepsin (in dyspepsia), c. Iron in chlorosis, anaemia, jaundice, pleasant and digestible for ladies and children), c. Quinine (an excellent tonic in neuralgia, nervous headache, and debility), C. Lime (—hypophosphit, in rickets, scrofulosis, very digestible). 3s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

We desire to call the most serious consideration of Hospital authorities in this country to this startling fact. The Cape Parliament has practically done for South African Nurses exactly what Acts of English Parliaments have invariably done for other professions. We confess that the idea had not occurred to us that the rule would be applied to Nurses—the rule, we mean, that teachers should not also be examiners; that those who imparted the knowledge are not the proper people to testify that the knowledge has been acquired. It is an anomaly in Nursing that the Hospital authorities who train Nurses are the persons who examine and certify that they are trained. In fact it comes to this; that the Hospital itself testifies that it has done its work well, and its duty to its Nursing pupils efficiently. No sane person would suggest that the same course should be pursued with Medical Students—that each Hospital should examine and testify to the skill and knowledge of the gentlemen it has trained. But Nursing, it is argued, is unlike every other profession under the sun, and cannot be judged by other standards, or governed by ordinary professional rules. For the moment, we let this matter pass, only emphasizing, once more, the significant lesson which this Parliamentary action at the Cape teaches, as to the drift of public opinion on nursing education, and as to the probable lines upon which other Parliaments may work in future. Finally, the Act contains very severe penal clauses. Anyone attempting to evade its clauses by fraudulently representing herself as a Registered Nurse, when she is not so, is liable to summary prosecution, and, on conviction, to the payment of a heavy fine, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve months. There are several other matters upon which, before expressing any opinion, we await further information, and which are equally important with those to which we have alluded. But now we wish to draw the careful attention of the few Hospitals which are opposing Registration in this country, and of the many Nurses who have not yet registered themselves, to the extremely important fact that the principle of Registration has now received Parliamentary sanction. There can be no dispute that this action of the Cape Parliament will have an immense moral effect in forcing forward this matter on the attention of other Legislatures. As we wrote, last week—it is the beginning of the end. We have never doubted the ultimate success of Registration, but now it is within sight. For their own welfare,

Loeffund's Alpine Milk Rusks (ground) ensure the most perfect development of bone and muscle in growing children from 6 months to 2 years of age. Prevents rickets, scurvy, and ensures healthy progress at the most critical period. Invaluable in teething. 1s. 6d. R. Baelz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)