

the voluntary hospitals are concerned. How long will a system be tolerated where irresponsible hospital managers continue to have autocratic power over sick persons, as the managers of our voluntary hospitals have? It is high time the sick and the nurses were protected. Because one man is rich and helps to govern a hospital, and another man is poor and accepts charity in sickness in such an institution, that is no reason why the life of the latter should be sacrificed without redress. Probationers in training have a right under the Registration Acts to a "prescribed" system of "training" to fit them for their responsible duties; and it is high time the Ministry of Health ceased to trifle with this important provision, and to support Sir Wilmot Herringham, Chairman of the General Nursing Council, together with ignorant Poor Law Guardians, in depriving probationers of systematic instruction and training—thus leaving them at the mercy of inefficient and unsafe methods of instruction, and the risk of "accidents" through ignorance, which may result in such tragedies as the deaths at Walthamstow. Who can gauge the mental anguish and the terrible remorse of a young probationer who inflicts such grief and suffering upon widows and orphans as that on Mrs. Keating and her young family. A tender-spirited girl would suffer life-long sorrow for such a preventable death. It is the duty of the Ministry of Health to minimise such risks.

LEAGUE NEWS.

The next meeting of the Royal Northern Hospital Nurses' League will be held in the Board Room of the Hospital, on Saturday, July 28th, at 3 p.m.

We congratulate the members of the Isleworth Nurses' League, in connection with the West Middlesex Hospital, on their admirable *Journal*, just issued, on fine paper, and excellently printed.

Especially is it to be congratulated on the many interesting letters which appear under the heading of "Correspondence," from such varied places as Nantes; Middleburg, U.S.A.; Rhodesia; and Natal; as well as from nurses travelling, or stationed, in Vancouver and India, and on a voyage to Singapore. One correspondent relates her experiences at a Routine Medical School Inspection, how one mother begged that her child might not be examined, and, on being asked why? replied, "Because she is sewed up for the winter."

Here is a dialogue between a doctor and another small child. Doctor: "How old are you, sonnie?" Sonnie: "I'm five." Doctor: "When were you five?" "On my birthday." Doctor: "When was your birthday?" Sonnie: "When I was five."

The Matron (Miss Huggins) and all concerned have every reason to be proud of their *Journal*.

THE RIGHT TO "PRESCRIBED" TRAINING.

We congratulate the Royal Infirmary (Leicester) Nurses' League upon its sound judgment in demanding "prescribed" training as provided in the Nurses' Acts, and hope all other Leagues of Trained Nurses will also take action. It is useless to hope for justice and progress unless the organised nurses themselves take the initiative and make their professional opinions widely known.

NURSING PROGRESS IN ITALY.

A letter appeared in our issue of March 17th last, signed by a number of certificated Sisters at the Policlinico Hospital in Rome, trained in the "Regina Elena" School of Nursing. They took some exception to the report of their School given in a paper on "Nursing Conditions in Italy" read before the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses at Copenhagen in 1922, and gave some further details of their work and Nurses' Home, and stated that Signorina Maria Valenzano, who read the paper, was not a trained nurse.

This letter has aroused a protest in the *Bollettino*, the official organ of the *Associazione Nazionale Italiana Tra Infermiere*, and we are informed that Signorina Valenzano is a fully trained nurse who has held important nursing positions, and is greatly respected in and outside the profession.

Italy, that is to say, the Italian women themselves, are just beginning to study and seriously organise nursing. Naturally, this great work of founding a profession will take time, and all Schools will not be based on Nightingale standards as we realise them in England to-day. Time must be given to develop, and national idiosyncrasies be permitted scope. Temperament, national habits, religion, all have to be considered in this question of preventive and curative nursing—and we know, now, in England, what a terrible struggle it has been to attain to any efficient standard, and to secure to our probationers just conditions and efficient teaching. Indeed, are we not struggling still against the almost overwhelming power of privilege and reaction?

Italian matrons need not worry so long as they realise that they have an uphill fight before them. We did congratulate the "Associazione" on its courage in passing a resolution asking for State organisation, examination, and a Nursing Diploma after three years' training. This is a fine standard to aim at, and we hope our Italian colleagues will soon attain it.

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