prevailed among the poor, since 'England alone among European countries possessed no hospital system.' Thus the solution of a new problem, namely how civilian authorities ought to deal with poverty and disease can best be studied in England. Mrs. Seymer devotes a chapter to the study of this problem.

The Nineteenth Century.

"The nineteenth century has been called by some the century of scientific discovery, by others that of the emancipation of women. One must not suppose that no attempt to improve nursing had been made prior to the Crimean War (the names of Mrs. Fry, the Comtesse de Gasparin, the Fliedners are outstanding in this connection) but none initiated reforms so revolutionary in character as those of Florence Nightingale." The chapters on Miss Nightingale in the Crimean War, the Nightingale School, her writings and contemporaries are some of the most important in the book and should be studied in detail, for, though much has been written about her, the modern nurse is surprisingly ignorant of her work, her greatness, her magnificent genius. As Mrs. Seymer truly says: "No adequate appreciation of Florence Nightingale's life can probably yet be written, for like the greatness of some peak in a mountain range, hers grows the more striking the further one gets away from it."

The Red Cross and Nursing, Military and Naval Nursing.

"That wars often leave their permanent impress on nursing history cannot be denied. The Crimean War was the cradle of modern nursing, since it was the national enthusiasm aroused by Florence Nightingale's work for the Army which enabled her to start and endow the Nightingale School. Again, while modern professional nursing owed its origin to one campaign, the Red Cross, and its now multifarious activities, were the outcome of another." How many present-day nurses, we wonder, know even the name of Jean Henri Dunant, that tender-hearted Swiss, who, happening, although only a tourist, to be at Solferino in North Italy, on June 24th, 1859, was impelled by motives of pity to help the miserable wounded men of the French and Italian and Austrian armies, and of his subsequent work to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies?

It is one which all the world should know.

The Development of Training Schools and of Nursing Education and Curricula.

Two important chapters are devoted to the Development of Training Schools and of Nursing Education and Curricula, to which the space at our disposal does not permit us to refer in any detail. The importance of the endowment and consequent financial independence of nurse training schools, and of the supremacy of the Matron, insisted on by Miss Nightingale, answerable only to the Hospital Board, and not subordinate to Hospital Directors, are points which should be noted.

Public Health Nursing.

Two most interesting chapters, and containing much new material, are those on Public Health Nursing, described by a recent writer as "one of the most important links in the chain of efficient public health administration." Yet of no subject, Mrs. Seymer says truly, is it more difficult to give an adequate general survey, for the multiplicity of the services now loosely grouped under the term "public health" is unending. These chapters should be carefully studied by those who wish to acquaint themselves with concentrated information concerning recent developments in Public Health Nursing the world over, as also should those on Psychiatric Nursing, Nun Nurses, and Prison Nursing.

State Recognition.

"Of all questions which affect nursing, the most hotly debated in recent times," says the author, "has been that of State recognition, but now that this exists in some thirty countries, most of which have introduced it since 1918, its advantages are plainly seen both by nurses and the public. The main arguments justifying it are, first, the legal safeguards for any profession to promote its efficiency; second, that the community needs to be legally protected against ignorance simulating competence. If the truth of these axioms is once admitted it follows that the State must regulate nursing, must license the nurses whom it recognises as fully trained, and in order to ensure an adequate supply of such persons, must approve their schools, prescribe their minimum course of training and examine them on the results. Opposition to such State intervention has now so entirely disappeared that the struggles by which it was brought about may seem to be of mere antiquarian interest. Their historical importance is, however, considerable."

In this connection accuracy in writing history is absolutely important if truth is to prevail, and we hope that in a future edition Mrs. Seymer will delete, and re-write, ten lines referring to the passing of the Nurses Registration Act in this country which amounts to a misstatement of facts, due no doubt to want of knowledge. We presume she has not studied the three Registration Bills, that of the Central (not General) Committee for State Registration, sponsored by Sir Richard (then Major) Barnett, the College of Nursing Bill and that introduced by the Minister of Health as a Government measure. The fundamental claim of the Central Committee's Bill, round which the main opposition centred, was for an independent Governing Body, the General Nursing Council, in strong opposition to the demand of the College of Nursing that its Council should be constituted the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession. *The demand of the Central Committee for an independent Council was incorporated in the Government Bill,* and indeed the whole measure was largely adapted from the Barnett Bill. To say, therefore, that "the College of Nursing played an active part in promoting State registration; the final Bill drafted by them formed a basis for the above mentioned Bill," and to make no mention of Major Barnett's Bill in this connection, is not history.

Nurses' Organisations.

The last chapter deals with Nurses' Organisations, and points out that "for the first fifteen years or so after the Nightingale school was established no form of nurses' association was even contemplated. Many reasons militated against solidarity. The pioneers in each new training school were often too engrossed with their own problems and difficulties to have any energy left over for corporate action with other groups, and another there was sometimes a feeling of unfriendliness towards nurses belonging to other schools. Again, training school boards were often entirely controlled by men, nurses had little real power and their rapidly growing body lacked a leader.

"The British Nurses' Association has the honour of being the first organization of professional nurses. Its inception was due to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (née Manson, Matron of St. Bartholomew's 1881 to 1887), who summoned the inaugural meeting at her house in 1887. All those present were enthusiastic for the proposed society and a public meeting was held in February, 1888, to explain its aims." Further organisation in this and other countries is detailed, as also the formation of the International Council of Nurses, "the oldest international organisation of professional workers," on the proposition of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council in London in 1899.

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