

vote that all the Dutch Hospitals ought to institute a regular system of training for Probationers, and that the term should be "the English standard of three years." Most cordially do we, on behalf of British Nurses, congratulate the promoters and the speakers of this great Meeting on the success of their efforts, and the profession in the Netherlands upon their manifest desire to place their Nursing system on a solid and a serviceable footing. We shall watch the progress of the new Association with the greatest interest, and feel confident, from what we have personally observed, that it will be wisely guided, to the attainment of ends which must be of incalculable value to the entire population of Holland.

#### PROFESSIONAL PRAISE.

To all professional people the commendation of their fellow workers—as naturally representing the opinion of those best able to weigh and judge as to their professional actions and abilities—is always held to be the highest, because the most discriminating, praise. In the medical and legal professions, this feeling has been almost elevated into a sacred dogma, and upon it have been founded rules of conduct erroneously designated "etiquette," which have, beyond the shadow of a doubt, had an incalculable effect in purifying and elevating both these professions. It is an encouraging sign of the times that Nurses are rapidly developing an entirely analogous respect for themselves and for their calling, founded upon a keen appreciation of, and deference to, professional opinion. As in many other matters, the Royal British Nurses' Association is taking the lead in this movement. It is rumoured that the Executive Committee have recommended the General Council, at its meeting to-morrow, to recognise, in some marked manner, the services which have been rendered to the Siberian Lepers in particular, and to the cause of humanity in general, by one of the members of the Association, Miss KATE MARSDEN. Such an act would not be merely graceful and courteous. It would not only be the assumption by the Association of the position to which it is so justly entitled—the right to speak in the name of the Nursing profession of the British Empire which no other person or body possesses. But it would doubtless be more highly appreciated by Miss MARSDEN than any other compliment which could be paid her, because it would be an expression of praise from her own profession.

#### POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION.

THE managers of the New York Cancer Hospital, desiring to give Nurses who graduate from small Hospitals the advantage of a larger experience in surgical work, have established a post-graduate course of one year to which graduates of good standing may enter at any time. At the conclusion of their term of service, a certificate, signed by the governors of the Hospital and the attending surgeons, will be given, provided that their work has been satisfactory. Lectures by the attending staff and superintendent will be given, and each Nurse will have an opportunity of witnessing operations and their subsequent treatment. Theoretically, the idea is excellent, and if it could be carried out in practice in English Hospitals, the plan would clearly be of great benefit both to Nurses and the public.

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## Obstetric Nursing.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.R.B.N.A. —

### PART II.—INFANTILE.

#### CHAPTER VIII.—INFANTILE AILMENTS.

(Continued from page 821.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

REVERTING to the two other causes I mentioned, as affecting the milk secretion and thus the infant. First, Imprudence in Diet: We will touch but lightly on this, as in a former paper I have dwelt very minutely upon diet for lying-in women, and refer you to those papers, and will merely remark *en passant* that *drinks* may be at fault as well as *solids*, and there is one beverage for our patients that, although popular, I can in no wise recommend—bottled stout (mostly Guinness as a rule). It is acid and affects the kidneys, it is frothy and distends the stomach and bowels with gas, it also is heavy of digestion, and makes the milk *poor*; how many babies has the writer known to suffer from this musky compound being substituted for those bland nourishing and delicate fluids that common sense alone would indicate as indispensable to milk formation. Some mothers will take half-a-dozen bottles of stout a day, under an impression of gaining strength! and then I am told the milk does not satisfy the baby! and feeding comes in "a vicious circle" truly. My observations, of course, only apply to the puerperal month. Amongst viands during this same period, *shell fish* (unless the *best* native oysters) should be avoided. Visiting a young patient not long since, I found her suffering from an eruption of the skin affecting the face, neck, and arms, coming out in red blotches, and she had a sore mouth. Inquiring as to the reason of this unexpected development, I found she had been eating mussels for her supper, and they disagreed with her; *idem* infant, *he* had some red "blotches" on his face and arms next day. Undoubtedly, there was a bad mussel amongst the rest, but on the whole it is better to avoid mussels, and also every form of *tinned* fish whilst lying-in. With respect to chills to the mother, giving rise to slight feverish symptoms, we know that they will often check the flow and affect the milk, and as a matter of course the

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