

perhaps, it would be more accurate to say, they have advanced in front of the present organization of the Royal British Nurses' Association. This must be frankly admitted, although it is possible, at the present rate of progress, that the Association will, before long, have attained to the same level, and it certainly must be remembered that in Holland there has not been the same interested opposition, because there has not been the same fear of pecuniary loss there, as in this country.

The Dutch Association has accepted the English three years' standard of training, and made it compulsory; it has accepted the view of the R.B.N.A. in fixing 40 beds as the minimum which any Hospital must possess that desires to be recognized as a training school for Nurses, and it has wisely permitted the training to be taken in more than one Hospital, if circumstances render that course advisable. It has, with justice, followed the example of the R.B.N.A., though not with such full measure of generosity, in permitting Nurses now at work to become registered without an examination. But then comes the essential advance made by the new Association; because it has boldly made a general examination, at once, the necessary qualification for registration, and has followed the example of the General Medical Council, in this country, in reserving to itself the right to be represented at these examinations—or, in other words, the opportunity of knowing whether these are sufficiently stringent tests of a Nurse's knowledge and efficiency—a proviso which, as the experience of the Medical Council proves, is of the greatest importance both as an incentive to good teaching and as a check upon careless examiners.

To commence with, the Association has drawn up a list of the examining bodies whose certificates it recognizes as qualifying for registration, exactly as the General Medical Council has a list of the Universities and Corporations whose degrees and diplomas it accepts as entitling the possessor to enrolment upon the Medical Register; and, if it be permissible to anticipate, precisely as the Nursing Act of the future will, probably, authorise the General Nursing Council, thereby constituted, to define what Nurse Training Schools it will recognize as efficiently educating Probationers, and whose certificates, therefore, the Council will accept as qualification for enrolment on the State Register of Nurses. Meanwhile, we congratulate our Nursing sisters in Holland upon the important advance which they have made, and ask our readers to note this remarkable sign of the times so far as the triumph of the Registration of Nurses is concerned.

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PRECEPT AND PRACTICE.

THE London County Council is progressive above all things, and desperately just, at least so its admirers constantly preach. It has enunciated the principle of "betterment" in more particulars than one, and has sworn by its nine deities to die rather than surrender it, despite all the efforts which wicked aristocrats might make to prevent its success. The London County Council has deliberately announced its intention of ensuring, so far as it can, that contractors, whom it employs, shall pay their workmen a fair rate of wages. Now, all this is excellent in theory, but it is interesting to observe how it works out in actual practice. A correspondent, whose letter appears in another column, and who we have every reason to believe is well-informed, calls attention to the fact that the London County Council offers employment of a most responsible character to a thoroughly-trained Nurse, at an inclusive salary of less than £2 per week. It is, perhaps, from want of knowledge of the remuneration ordinarily given to such skilled workers, that such an offer has been gravely made, and, therefore, it will be well to explain that even private Nurses are now-a-days paid for at the rate of from two to three guineas a week, and have, moreover, board and lodging provided for them while at work. To propose that a Nurse should undertake very difficult public duties for a remuneration which would barely keep her, is so suggestive of that sweating of which the County Councilors have publicly expressed their personal abhorrence, that we are fain to believe that there has been some mistake, and that the offer to which we refer will be revised so soon as the real facts of the case are brought to the knowledge of the authorities. For such a post as that in question, the salary should be at least £150 per annum, and we have no hesitation in saying that the County Council will not be able to obtain a thoroughly trained Nurse, who holds the special qualification for the duties involved, for a smaller remuneration than that named. Nor, in view of the principles asserted by the Council and to which we have referred, do we consider that the Council would be consistent were it finally to offer less than this "living wage."

HOME HOSPITAL AT CALCUTTA.

WE would draw special attention to a letter on this subject which appears in another column. In accordance with English custom we are doing a great deal for the natives in India in providing medical and nursing attendance for them in illness. Why should we not do something for our own people who, far away from home and friends, are maintaining our mighty Indian Empire? It is not too much to ask, that when they fall ill they should be able to obtain the same advantages which we provide for others. Will the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters of Englishmen, serving in India in the Army or in the Civil Service, give something to start this Home Hospital in Calcutta, where those of their race, when struck down by illness, could be tended by English Nurses amongst comfortable and healthy surroundings. We shall be glad to hear that such a useful scheme has been commenced and carried out.

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