

is a very general consensus of opinion amongst those who are engaged in training Nurses, that it would be well that such a test should be instituted.

The important question then, at once, arises as to the subjects which should be comprised in this preliminary examination, and upon this point our correspondents have not entered into so many details as we could have desired, but have laid stress upon the various subjects which each individually regarded as important to be known by the candidate for admission into a Hospital. Partly in the hope of eliciting further expression of opinion on this matter, partly in order to bring our discussion on the subject to a practical result, we would suggest that the preliminary examination should comprise three distinct branches, which might be subdivided in some such manner as the following :—

A. *General Education*—which might, for instance, include a knowledge of Geography, Arithmetic, English History Grammar and Literature, the writing of a short Prose Essay, and the translation of sentences of Latin, French, or German into English.

B. *Domestic*—that is to say, a practical acquaintance with household management, with dusting, scrubbing and cleaning, with needlework, with the keeping of ordinary accounts, and with the cooking of invalid foods.

C. *Scientific*—which should include a knowledge of Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, and Chemistry, sufficient to enable the candidate to understand the constitution and working of the human body in health; the cardinal principles of ventilation and cleanliness; the ordinary methods of testing urine; and practical dexterity in the padding of splints, and bandaging.

It will be generally conceded that it would be for the advantage of everyone concerned that Probationers should possess the amount and kind of knowledge involved in such an examination as that which we have sketched out, before they enter the Hospital rather than that they should be compelled to acquire it during their early training in the wards; because not only would such preliminary knowledge lighten and give increased interest to the practical work in which they would be then engaged, but it would also leave them free to devote their whole time, thought and energies to the actual care of the sick, instead of, as now is too often the case, being forced to combine this with the laborious learning of novel scientific facts.

In short, we are led to the conclusion that it would be for the benefit of the whole profession that its members should have passed through such a preliminary education and examination as that now under discussion; and, moreover, that it would be for the advantage of Probationers in their after work that such examination should be compulsory, because then those who desired to enter

Hospitals would utilize their time of waiting for a vacancy by studying these most important subjects and so preparing themselves for the necessary test of their fitness for admission.

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#### THE CAPE GOVERNMENT REGISTER OF NURSES.

There are some few Nurses in this country who, even now, are unaware of the important work which the Royal British Nurses' Association has accomplished for their profession, especially in the commencement of a system of Registration; and others, again, who refrain from becoming registered, because they cannot realize what advantage it is to themselves to be publicly distinguished from the ignorant and unworthy people who, without the least technical education or experience, term themselves trained Nurses, take work away from thoroughly skilled women, and cause incalculable harm to the sick by their ignorance and inefficiency. But, at the Cape of Good Hope, at any rate, Nurses are quite awake to the benefits of the system, because, as our readers are aware, it is there compulsory that all who wish to practice in this capacity should become registered. We have just been favoured with a copy of the Register of Nurses issued by the Cape Government last year. It is a highly significant fact, which we commend to the notice of Nurses at home, that of the 45 Nurses now registered by the Cape Government, no less than 19 were accepted for registration because they had been previously registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association. All the remainder had to produce detailed proofs of professional experience, or pass an examination held under the auspices of the Medical Council of the Colony. As a correspondent very pertinently observes: "This is a good instance of the great value to Nurses of belonging to such an important professional body."

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#### AN ENGLISH NURSE WANTED.

We have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to an advertisement, which appears in our columns this week, for a Matron for Christ's Hospital, Cincinnati. This is an Institution which does excellent work, and attached to it is a Training Home for Nurse Deaconesses. The Managers of the Hospital were, we are informed, much impressed with the excellence of the appliances exhibited in the British Nursing Section at the Chicago Exhibition, and would be glad to appoint a well-trained English Nurse as their Superintendent of Nurses. Her duties would be to supervise the Nursing in the Hospital, and to train Probationers, and she would be expected to stay for two or three years. We have consented to receive and consider the testimonials, and report upon the candidates to the authorities of the Hospital. An English Nurse, who has no home ties, and who possesses the true spirit of her calling, might do a great deal of useful work by organizing the Nursing of this Institution, as well-known Englishwomen have done in other and larger Hospitals in the United States, to the acknowledged benefit of those Institutions, and to the credit both of themselves, and of English Nursing.

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