

only to Nurses, in regard to the efficient education of Probationers, but also to the hospitals. Because, if these institutions, alone of all special hospitals, are to be recognised as affording their Probationers a general as well as a special education, the pecuniary and professional advantages which must accrue to them are too obvious to require description.

There can be no dispute that by many medical men, and, not unnaturally, by Matrons of many children's hospitals, the opinion is expressed that a Nurse can learn all she requires in the wards of such an institution. On the other hand, it is said, and with great force, that, to a children's hospital, there are many classes of cases which are not, and which cannot be, admitted. This, again, is so obvious, that the point need not be laboured. To our minds, in this discussion, one essential feature of the differences between children and adult nursing appears to have been completely overlooked. A Nurse cannot with the former acquire the ability or facility in lifting or attending upon helpless adults, which only comes with considerable practice. There is a further argument in the same connection which we commend to those who consider, with much justice, that moral qualities and experience are as essential to a Nurse as theoretical knowledge of the science of Nursing. It is a totally different matter to manage a child and an adult patient, and certainly requires a different range of moral qualities.

A Nurse who has always been accustomed to treat children would find her methods completely out of place when nursing a man; and in attendance upon nerve cases, she would require, to a still greater degree, the use of faculties which would never have been practised in the nursing of infants.

Again, if she desired to enter the Army or Navy nursing services, her lack of experience in general surgery would certainly be a drawback. We are far from under-estimating the importance of the nursing of children, and, indeed, think that many Nurses would derive great benefit from a preliminary training in a small provincial hospital for children. But so far as the principle goes, there can be no dispute that, in the future, a general training, to be complete and thorough, must have been received in a general hospital.

Our colleagues in Holland are advancing faster in some respects than we have been able to do. Their supervision of examinations is based upon a broad and logical basis, and is closely similar to that carried out by the General Medical Council. Especially is this the case in the regulation providing for the recognition only of diplomas granted by bodies to whose system and methods of examination the Dutch Association has given its approval, and to the efficiency of whose examinations it has satisfied itself by sending delegates to watch and report upon the proceedings thereat.

#### CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A case which was brought last week before the Marlborough Street Police Court has important lessons for the whole community. Three ladies walking down Bond Street in the afternoon, were horrified to observe a horse harnessed to a van which was loading with furniture before a well-known auction room. The animal was hardly able to stand up from sheer weakness. It looked for all the world like a walking skeleton, and presented the most miserable appearance. After many blows, it was sufficiently goaded into making the supreme struggle necessary to move the heavy van and slowly dragged its load up the crowded street and out of sight. There were hundreds of men and women walking or driving by; there were policemen at all points, but no one appeared to take the slightest notice of this cruelly over-worked and broken-down beast of burden. At last, one of these ladies was so indignant, that she noted the name and address painted on the van, and reported the matter to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The result was that the Society immediately sent its Inspector and a Veterinary Surgeon to examine the horse, and on their report the case was brought before the Police Court. At considerable inconvenience and discomfort, one of these ladies attended the Court and gave her evidence; the horse was produced and examined by the magistrate; and the veterinary surgeon deposed that it was so altered, that he could hardly believe that it was the same animal; it had evidently been so well fed and rested in the interval between the complaint and the trial. The magistrate inflicted a heavy fine upon the owner of the horse with the alternative of a month's imprisonment, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the lesson will not be wasted. The case conclusively proves the excellent work which is being done for helpless animals by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, and the callous indifference with which the great majority of people appear to ignore the sufferings to which beasts of burden in this Metropolis are subjected. We would urge that those who dislike such cruelty should, at any rate, subscribe to this excellent society, and do what little they can to make the lot of these poor animals less hard by reporting all cases of cruelty which they may witness, direct to the Society at their headquarters, No. 105, Jermyn Street, St. James's, S.W.

#### THE DICTIONARY OF MEDICINE.

The standard work of reference for medical men at the present day is undoubtedly the Dictionary edited by Sir Richard Quain, and of which the second edition has just been published. The first edition published some twelve years ago consisted of no less than 33,000 copies—a number probably unique in the history of medical literature—was compiled by no less than 162 different writers, each one recognized as an authority upon the subject of which he treated. To this army of writers—thinned perceptibly by Death during the last decade—fifty new contributors have now been added, and the present issue contains the best modern knowledge on most subjects connected with Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics. The Dictionary will for long hold its position of pre-eminence amongst the classical text-books of the medical profession in every English-speaking country.

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