

Boards before coming to a conclusion. He would just like to tell the Conference how the eight-hour system became compulsory. This was not legislation asked for by the nurses or by the professional officers of the Government; but in the Upper House a gentleman, acknowledged to be a humanitarian, and desirous of making the lot easier of a class that might be overworked, brought down a motion to limit the hours of nurses. The result was that in Wellington the Trained Nurses' Association took the matter up, and they asked him (Mr. Kirk) to draft a petition strongly protesting against legislation they had never asked for, and which they deemed would be contrary to the best interests of their profession. Notwithstanding that petition, the Bill went through, with certain amendments, and it was now on the Statute-book. In the Wellington Hospital they had been working under the eight-hour system for a good many years, and comparatively recently, owing, he supposed,

to the opinions expressed by Dr. Hardwick Smith, he had looked into the matter. One of the conclusions that had been come to by the doctor and matron was that it was absolutely necessary that the probationers taken on should undergo a four years' course. The Chairman of the Otago Board stated that if the nurses had passed their examination they must be well qualified, but he overlooked the fact that no examination dealt with the personal equation. They could get answers from nurses in regard to physiology, anatomy, and the theory of nursing, and so on, but no examination in the world would show whether a woman had instilled in her the true ideals of nursing—whether she had acquired such habits as regards the care of the patient as would make her a good trained nurse. He asked leave to withdraw his motion, in favour of the amendment that had been proposed.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment agreed to.

Notice

Matrons are reminded that the applications of their nurses to sit for the State examination next December, should be sent in during the first week in November.

Application forms and certificate forms can be obtained from the office of the Registrar of Nurses on request.

NOTICE TO MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS AND MATRONS OF HOSPITALS WHICH ARE TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

It does not seem to be fully understood among some of the smaller training schools that the intention of the Registrar of Nurses in relegating the examination of nurses in Anatomy and Physiology, to the Hospital Authorities and accepting a certificate from the hospital that the candidates had passed an examination in these subjects, was in order to give fully two years to the study both theoretical and practical of medical

and surgical work for the final State examination. The regulations which are issued by the Department state that this examination should be held after the end of the first year, and cannot owing to the different periods at which nurses enter for training state a definite period after, but I would like to point out that it is most desirable that the probationers should be given their full course of lectures on these subjects during, or as nearly as possible, during their first year, and should then be examined.

If a nurse should fail she should then be given the opportunity of sitting again at the end of another six months. Under this arrangement nurses will have two years for the more important part of their study. As this course is followed in the large training schools it does not give the nurses from the smaller schools a fair chance in competing with the former, if they have not had so long undivided attention to give to the special subjects for the final examination.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Florence Nightingale Memorial Fund.

Those nurses desiring to join in sending a contribution from New Zealand towards the National Memorial are requested to send in their subscriptions to Miss Bicknell as

soon as possible. The money collected so far is small, but we hope will be largely augmented before the early date on which it will be necessary to forward it. Contributions of 1s or 2s will be sufficient to make quite a large sum if every nurse in New Zealand will join, and will remember to forward the amount in time.—EDITOR.