

The London Hospital Correspondence.

HOPES FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT ARE YET TO COME.

THE revival of the controversy over the system still in force at the London Hospital has led to the formulation of some statements which have no justification in the facts of to-day's training at the London Hospital. One was in effect that nurses with less than two years' training in the wards have been sent out private nursing to the public. The correspondence we have published lately demonstrates that these unpardonable irregularities occurred before the year 1900, and no such cases are officially declared to have happened since. Next we were appealed to by Miss McKinley on behalf of the probationer nurse and nurses generally, and the position was one which had to be gone thoroughly into and examined on its merits with all the available evidence before us. This entailed the publication of Miss McKinley's letter, and our article upon it dealing with the subject, published on page 415 of THE HOSPITAL for August 10, so that the fullest opportunity should be afforded to every member of the nursing profession to know the charges and, if there was any substance in the floating statements to which Miss McKinley attached her name, the former or present probationer, if she existed in fact, should have an opportunity to state her case. We pointed out in our issue of August 10 that it was a remarkable fact that, during the whole dis-

cussion which has taken place on the system of training nurses at the London Hospital, no complaint had been addressed to us by a probationer nurse.

Miss McKinley's letter has been widely circulated through THE HOSPITAL. No support has been forthcoming from any aggrieved nurse in this connection. We are glad to note that in these circumstances Miss Helena McKinley, in her second letter (see THE HOSPITAL, August 24, page 457), as an honourable woman has hastened to express her regret and to withdraw her letter of July 27 which appeared on page 397 of THE HOSPITAL for August 3. It is a serious matter to make grievous charges of the kind in the absence of uncontested evidence that they are true and relate to present conditions resting upon incontrovertible facts. We hope this truth may be admitted and enforced by nurses generally, and taken to heart on occasion, as Miss McKinley has taken them, to her credit, with promptness and dispatch.

There remain other important matters in the London Hospital system to be dealt with and determined, as the correspondence published in *The Times* and THE HOSPITAL has demonstrated. It is our hope and expectation that certain adjustments will speedily follow, and that unity for the nursing profession may soon become the reality all who have its true welfare at heart so earnestly desire.

Dentistry as a Profession (continued from page 490).

less than twelve months, and attended the practice of surgery and clinical lectures on surgery at a hospital or hospitals for twelve months during ordinary sessions. At the special dental part of the examination the oral examination is conducted by the use of preparations, casts, drawings, etc., and at the practical examination candidates may be examined (a) on the treatment of dental caries, on the preparation of teeth by filling with gold or other material, by inlaying or by crowning, and other operations in dental surgery; (b) on the mechanical and surgical treatment of the various irregularities of children's teeth. A certificate must have been produced showing that the student has attended at a dental hospital and school: (a) a course of dental anatomy and physiology; (b) a separate course of dental histology, including the preparation of microscopical sections; (c) a course of dental surgery; (d) a separate course of practical dental surgery; (e) a course of not less than five lectures on the surgery of the mouth which may form part of the course of lectures on surgery required for Part I. of the examination; (f) a course of dental bacteriology; (g) a course of dental materia medica; (h) a course of practical instruction in the administration of such anaesthetics as are in common use in dental surgery. A certificate

must also be produced showing that the candidate has, during two years, attended the practice of dental surgery in a dental hospital or the dental department of a general hospital.

The cost of training varies very considerably with the dental schools at which the student enters. One leading school of dentistry charges £150 for the two years' instruction in dental mechanics and the two years' hospital practice and lectures required by the Royal College of Surgeons, with an addition if the fee be paid in instalments. Another very important dental school charges a composition fee of 180 guineas for a two years' course in dental mechanics, chemistry, physics, anatomy, and physiology, and two years' hospital practice, medicine, surgery, and dental lectures, offering registered women students a four years' course, dental curriculum only, for 120 guineas;

Besides the London dental hospitals and general hospitals with dental schools, such as Guy's and the London Hospitals and the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women, which trains its students in conjunction with the two dental hospitals, most of the provincial Universities offer dental training and grant degrees in dentistry.

The Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Ireland hold examinations for the L.D.S. and grant the diploma.