The object of the deputation was to protest against the State registration of nurses, and to suggest as an alternative an official directory, in which should be recorded the name, places, duty, periods of training, and appointments. The difficulty of removing a nurse from the register was one of the leading objections used by the deputation. Misconduct almost amounting to criminal misdemeanour, it was asserted, would alone suffice to effect such removal. Nurses, however disqualified for nursing by general inefficiency and misconduct, would remain on the register for the duration of their lives.

Lord Crewe, in response, definitely informed the deputation that there was no prospect of legislation on this matter in the present session, and the influential character of the opposition makes it very doubtful whether any legislation will be successful, for some years at least.

The Medico-Psychological Association has supported and will continue to support the right of mental nurses to registration if State registration is conceded to general nurses. If, however, this is not to be obtained, or is to be greatly delayed, it might be well to consider in the meantime the merits of the alternative scheme.

A directory issued by this Association of the nurses who had obtained its certificate, if compiled annually from applications, endorsed by a medical man, would be a fairly satisfactory evidence of continued capability and character. The expense of such a directory would, however, be prohibitive unless a small sum was paid by those wishing to have their names inscribed, and this would probably limit it to those engaged in private nursing.

Private nurses at the present time are quite sufficiently prone to assume the attitude of medical practitioners and to undertake the treatment of cases on their own responsibility. It is a question whether this tendency would not be increased by registration, whilst it would certainly be held in check by the necessity for the support of a medical man in renewing their annual application to a directory.

Nursing Examination.

The Educational Committee is not resting on its oars after the successful recognition which has been obtained of the eligi-

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bility of asylum nurses for registration, but is actively engage in still further improving the training and elevating the examination standard.

The revision and amplification of the *Nursing Handbook*, and the various means under consideration for making the examination more thorough and practical will greatly enhance the value of the nursing certificate of the Association, and the corresponding status of the nurses. The latter will be still further increased should the examination be divided into two parts, with an interval of a year between the first and second part, as has been proposed.

With these added improvements the training and examinations of the asylum nurses will compare not unfavourably with those of general nurses.

Part II.—Reviews.

Criminal Responsibility. By CHARLES MERCIER, F.R.C.P., etc. 8vo. Pp. 232. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

"What saist thou, Bully Bottom?"
"There are things in this comedy . . . that will never please."

For example, on the second page of the first chapter ("Responsibility") we have the following:—"The law, the accumulated wisdom, the concentrated common sense of many generations, sets up one standard of responsibility, and who am I that I should set up another?" This gives us furiously to think, and many answers, sacred and profane, flit through our mind. We think of Bumble and his definition of law, dear to those departing generations who had not learned that Dickens was vulgar. We think (and perhaps this is more to the purpose) of stout John Knox's reply to Mary Stuart's query, "Who are you to speak thus to the sovereign of this realm?" "Madam, a subject born within the same." It was a sturdy answer in the days when sovereignty had prestige as well as power, but to-day, when prestige exists no more, and power is to be found only in trades councils, surely speech may be free, and the man who knows may venture to give utterance to his knowledge, even against accumulated wisdom and concentrated common sense, for accumulated wisdom means authority, and common sense is the last stronghold of ignorance, and neither authority nor ignorance have any validity in science. It is true that Dr. Mercier goes on to admit that the English law is eminently modifiable (of course; else, why lawyers?), and that it is being continually altered in accordance with the altering moods of the populace. Exactly; immortal John has told us the same thing with reference to the Englishman's religion:

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