

THERE is no doubt, though it is humiliating to the national *amour propre*, that they do "manage some things better in France." When one thinks of the grand work done by the Doctors and the Nurses in England, and I venture to believe better work than their *confreres* and *consœurs* accomplish across the Channel, it does seem hard that it should receive such niggardly recognition from the State in this country. Some one says somewhere that—

"He that preserves the people's health,  
Is worth an army to the Commonwealth."

AND yet in this England of ours, especially practical and peace-seeking as it is, orders of merit, titles, and so forth are showered broadcast upon those whose business it is now and then to destroy life, and rarely, if ever, bestowed on Doctors and Nurses, whose one aim and object is to prolong and save it. If for example a civil as well as a Military Division of the Royal Red Cross was created, and the Order conferred on Medical Men and Nurses who had distinguished themselves in various fields of work, it would at least show an appreciation on the part of the State of services which are admitted to be invaluable, but are at present completely without public recognition.

THE *Philanthropist* is a journal whose size, influence, views, and importance can be easily imagined when it is explained that it is managed upon most homœopathic principles. It is therefore evidently only fulfilling its great creed of "like to like," or "birds of a feather flock together," as the same idea is proverbially expressed, in publishing the following in its number for this month:—"Mr. Burdett has scored one against the British Nursing Association. When it was proposed that the public should take such an interest in the National Fund for Nurses as to help it with subscriptions, there was a great and indignant cry against a suggestion so humiliating to independent people like Nurses. Their leaders were very lofty in their wrath. They characterised the suggestion as 'insulting.' But now the Princess Christian suggests that the British Nursing Association is in need of public subscriptions to carry out their laudable scheme. And Mr. Burdett wants to know why. Is Registration such a costly process? Or is the present Registration scheme too ambitious? That the public should subscribe to help a Pension Fund for Nurses one understands; but what funds does a scheme of Registration require?"

Now it is, of course, not necessary to tell my readers that the context shows the writer is referring to the British Nurses' Association, and that his use of the term *Nursing Association*

simply proves that he knows so little of the subject as to think that Nurses and Nursing are synonymous terms! Then he infers that the leaders of the Association made "a great and indignant cry" against the Pension Fund. I inquired carefully into this matter last week, and can now assert that this is perfectly, totally untrue. So the Editor of the *Philanthropist* either knows nothing at all of the subject, and so made this misstatement in pure ignorance, or else, he has wilfully and deliberately published it, knowing that it was untrue.

I AM told, on the best authority, that the leaders of the Association have never exhibited the slightest wrath, "lofty" or otherwise, or cried greatly and indignantly or otherwise, or taken the slightest official notice of any kind of, or against, the Pension Fund. But "Mr. Burdett wants to know why." That is quite possible. But I should be greatly surprised to find that any one considered it in the smallest degree necessary to gratify that curiosity. The journal of which Mr. Burdett is the editor quoted this paragraph a week or two ago, under the delicious heading "Quite So." So it would appear that Mr. Burdett also thinks he "has scored one against the British Nursing Association." One isn't a large score to make, but it is certainly better than nothing. Only I cannot gather from the paragraph *how* Mr. Burdett "scored one." Probably the Association doesn't care, for I have an idea it isn't playing with Mr. Burdett at all. But it would only be fair if the *Philanthropist* or Mr. Burdett would complete the story, and tell us how this solitary one *was* scored.

### HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

REPORTS OF INSTITUTIONS, ETC., COMMUNICATED AND COLLECTED.

THE Great Northern Central Hospital Committee have secured the future Heir Apparent as their President. If Prince Albert Victor proves himself as good an organizer and director as his illustrious father, the Hospital may be congratulated upon its choice and the happy consent of the chosen one.

HERTFORD had its first Hospital Sunday collection on the 5th, on behalf of the Hertford Infirmary and the Herts Convalescent Home. The amount realised was £138 3s. 3d. Let us see: this divided by 9,000 (the population), shows about threepence halfpenny per head—not so bad for a first attempt, but it should show sixpence per head. Let us hope that next year it will reach this more desirable proportion.

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