

discriminating kind, as far as character is concerned. No one can be removed from the Register except for gross negligence or misconduct, and the removal has to be effected by means partaking of the character of a legal process."

Is not "the case of Nurses" in the above particulars again precisely and exactly "analogous to that of Doctors"? We presume that the only way a Nurse's knowledge could possibly be tested, would be—and is—by examination. Are not examinations held for this very purpose at every well-regulated Training School? Are not certificates and prizes given in accordance, simply and solely, with the results of such examinations? Where then does the analogy fail? But the pamphlet continues:—"How far a legal Register is essential or advantageous in the case of Doctors I will not stop to inquire. Some of the highest authorities in the profession have expressed more than doubts upon the subject. But let us consider what are the qualifications which are required of a good Nurse, and how far these can be satisfactorily ascertained after the manner in which a Medical Student's qualifications are tested. No one will, at this time of day, deny that moral as well as professional qualities are everything in a Nurse, that she has to be judged by her character and conduct as well as by her technical skill, by the possession of such qualities as kindness, patience, trustworthiness, self-control, discretion. How are these intangible things to be Registered?" We have shown on several occasions how far a legal Register is essential, and would be advantageous, in the case of Nurses, and so need not consider this further at present. Mr. Bonham-Carter omits to discuss this point at all; though, as we pointed out last week, the wisest and most far-sighted of the leaders of the Nursing world fully realise its importance and usefulness to their profession. We must, however, at the risk of being deemed unduly inquisitive, ask why, if Mr. Bonham-Carter considers there is no analogy between Doctors and Nurses upon this matter, he should have quoted the opinion of the Medical Register held by "some of the highest Medical authorities"?

But now comes the gist of the whole argument. It is asked how certain personal qualities are to be Registered. To which we reply that everyone knows that "kindness, patience, trustworthiness," &c., *cannot* be Registered, and that there is not the slightest necessity why they should be. When we first noticed this pamphlet, we felt constrained to say that, in our humble judgment, Mr. Bonham-Carter had completely failed to grasp the situation. It was this very paragraph which convinced us of that fact. We fully acknowledge the great importance of the personal characteristics alluded

to. We agree with Mr. Bonham-Carter, not only as to their value, but also that they are entirely and altogether outside the question of Registration.

But beyond this, "no one will at this time of day deny that moral as well as professional qualities are everything in a Doctor; that he "has to be judged by" his "character and conduct"; that if he is not possessed of "such qualities as kindness, patience, trustworthiness, self-control, discretion," he is not fitted to be a Medical man at all. Nay, more, we assert, without fear of contradiction, that if he is not the possessor of those qualities, he cannot, and will not, succeed in his profession. In the case of a Medical man, these "intangible things" are not Registered, yet is the public, therefore, one whit the less protected?"

So this contention of Mr. Bonham-Carter's, on the one hand, only establishes the close analogy which really exists between the cases of Doctors and Nurses; and on the other, proves that it is quite unnecessary, in order to protect the public against ignorance, unskilfulness, and quackery, that "intangible things" should be Registered. If a Probationer, or a Medical Student, is deficient in these qualities, it is most improbable that either could pass through the period of training, or ever reach the examination and Registration stage.

But presuming that, by some fortuitous course of circumstances, such became qualified, and that even one or two Trained Nurses and Medical men out of every thousand are not kind, patient, trustworthy, &c., there is not the shadow of a doubt that all the Registration in the world will not make them successful, will not secure them the continuous care of patients. Registration does not pretend to guarantee any person's temper, any more than it guarantees his teeth, or his tongue. It can only act as an easily-referred-to certificate of his technical knowledge. It pretends to do no more. If it can do that, and Mr. Bonham-Carter admits that it can, that is quite sufficient. No one can off-hand tell whether a Nurse knows her work; anyone is able to judge whether she is possessed of "such qualities as kindness, patience, trustworthiness, self-control, discretion."

No one can protect himself against professional ignorance; anyone can defend himself against rudeness, impatience, or deceit.

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It will not be a small reputation for any of us to have gained, if, when the clouds rattle over our coffin, the bystanders, as they wipe away a tear from the eye, can repeat over us the words which Sir Henry Lawrence, the defender of Lucknow, wished put upon his tomb, "Here lies one who tried to do his duty."

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