

intensity for some safeguard, and some protection against this evil. Medical men know it, Nurses know it, and the force of their conviction may be estimated by the rapidity of the success of the movement they have initiated.

But we have digressed. What the public wants to be told by authoritative voices is simply this: "So-and-so is qualified by training and experience of Nursing work, to tend the sick efficiently. It is not guaranteed that she will not lose her teeth, nor her temper, nor any other thing that she has." And the public would reply: "We can judge of the latter without the assistance of experts, and can easily protect ourselves against 'unkindness, impatience, or indiscretion.'" But we cannot estimate in a stranger what we do not understand ourselves—a knowledge of the Art of Nursing; and on that point alone we desire certain and definite information."

So once more we repeat that the argument, upon which so great a stress is laid by Mr. Bonham-Carter, that Registration of Nurses would be valueless because it would not guarantee each Nurse's "moral qualities," is quite beside the question at issue. We might, it appears to us, just as well argue that the water-mark upon Bank of England notes is valueless as a protection to the public, because it does not guarantee that every such piece of paper will be preserved clean, and spotless, and untorn. Far-fetched as it sounds, that is an argument exactly on all-fours with the one we have been discussing.

But now to pass to the second point raised in the pamphlet, which we may, perhaps, remind our readers was reprinted in full, in our issue of September 6th. It is thus enunciated: "Now, I venture to think that when we come to look more closely into the matter, we shall find some patent reasons for concluding . . . that a General Register will not afford, and is not capable of affording, either to Doctors or the public, the information which employers of Nurses ought to require."

Now, in considering this, of course the first point to determine must be, "What is the information which the employer of a Nurse ought to require?" If we had been asked, we should unhesitatingly have answered thus: "Is she a trained Nurse? Is her last testimonial a recent one?" Or, in other words, has she lately nursed a case, and given satisfaction?

But we regret that we are not able to follow Mr. Bonham-Carter's argument upon this matter at all. He seems to take for granted that all that the employer of a Nurse ought to know is, what her moral character may be; and starting from this assumption, he proceeds thus: "It is not enough to say that the moral character of the Nurse can

be ascertained by a certificate of good conduct from the Training School previous to admission upon the Register; for, in the first place, who is to certify the Training School? and, in the next place, how is the evidence of the character to be kept up in subsequent years after the name has been placed on the Register?"

Then the pamphlet describes the differences which exist between Training Schools, as to their methods of working and standards of requirements, concluding the section as follows:—"Moreover, it cannot, I venture to think, yet be said that those who have the direction of Hospitals and Training Schools, whether laymen or professional men, have arrived at such a general concurrence of opinion as to the system to be pursued in the School and Hospital, or in the standard of qualification to be required of a Nurse, as will render it practicable or expedient to lay down any general conditions to which Training Schools should conform, in order that their pupils may be entitled to admission on a General Register."

But all this, we venture to think, does not answer the question to which we have given above a practical reply, as to what information anyone desirous of employing a Nurse is likely to require. Certainly, to our minds, the paragraphs we have quoted only go to confirm the impression, that, the sooner some "standard of qualification to be required of a Nurse" is decided upon, the better will it be, not only for the public, but for Trained Nurses themselves. And we, ourselves, are quite convinced, that just as it has had this effect in the case of the Medical Profession, so the establishment of a General Register would inevitably tend to the erection of a definite standard of Nursing knowledge.

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### AS OTHERS SEE US.

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"It is with much pleasure that we draw attention to the admirable new journal devoted to the interests of Hospital Nurses and Nursing questions generally. The *Nursing Record* to hand (published by Sampson Low and Co., St. Dunstan's House), has interesting 'Hospital Sketches,' articles by experienced Nurses, and some smart editorial writings. We note that the wonderful institution—the Hospitals' Association—comes in for some deservedly severe censure in connection with its trimming attitude on the question of the registration of Nurses. Perhaps, if we have space, we may, later on, have something special to say about Miss Dannatt's prize essay on a scheme of diets for the Nursing Staff of a Hospital."—*The Charity Record*.

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