

upon their exertions; and that to their steadfast support is due its present prestige and success, would suffice, were other proofs wanting, to show conclusively the complete mistake into which the writer of the pamphlet has fallen in this matter. The confusion, however, between the Medical profession and the Hospitals is quite excusable to a member of the general public, to whom, as a rule, the two are almost synonymous terms. No Doctor or Nurse would have written such words as those which we have quoted.

Medical men and Nurses have been merely amused at the protest against Registration which has roused our pamphleteer to such indignation. They have simply laughed at the consummate assurance which has pretended that a document signed by a few laymen, and still fewer young Medical men, and a little sprinkling of Hospital Matrons, was an authoritative protest against a scheme supported by several hundreds of the leading Physicians and Surgeons in the three kingdoms, the medical Press of Great Britain—now without one exception—the Matrons of more than half the Hospitals in the country, and at least three thousand Trained Nurses. And, be it remembered, all these latter have not confined themselves to complacently scribbling their signatures to a document, and forthwith forgetting that they had done so. They have shown their interest by making annual payments in support of this movement, a fact which, by itself, will carry conviction of their sincerity to the commercial minds of the public at large.

No! we can reassure our pamphleteer. Not the slightest notice has been taken by the British Nurses' Association of the protest which appears to the lay mind so important. Upon the day on which it appeared in the Press, the great hall of the Mansion House was crammed by a sympathetic audience, to which the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the President of the General Medical Council, amongst other leaders of the Medical profession, announced the clear resolve of the Association and of Medical men to persevere with the scheme of Registration, and prophesied its certain success.

No! our writer is entirely wrong in attributing the memorial to Medical men as a body, or holding the Medical profession in the slightest degree responsible for it. But the gravity of the case is this—that the indictment proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that a feeling has been aroused in the public mind that the progress of Nursing, and of Nurses, is being opposed by Medical men for selfish and personal motives. We have heard of this same belief as existent in several different parts of England and Scotland, and can easily foresee what the inevitable result

will be should it continue to prevail and extend. Doctors and Nurses will be believed to be in some way antagonistic to each other, instead of being, as they are, have been, and must be, in most complete harmony. And the more this absurd protest is published in the lay papers, the more public attention is called by ridiculous *rechauffés* of the stale old paragraph to the assertion that "the leading Hospitals are opposed to Registration," the more widely will the conviction naturally spread that there is a want of sympathy with Nurses, on the part of Doctors. This perhaps is of little consequence, because the mistake would be corrected in each instance as it arose, but the results to Hospitals would be infinitely more grave.

For the pamphlet before us shows, for example, that the public is not quite so foolish as the memorialists imagined; that it is beginning to realise very keenly the importance of Registration to its own safety and comfort; and that a feeling is abroad, and is now taking articulate expression, that the Hospitals, for interested motives, are engaged in repressing the just wishes of Nurses, and in preventing any means being taken to protect the sick against women calling themselves Nurses who have no right to the title and no knowledge of the work. And when it is remembered how precarious the incomes of Hospitals are, how utterly dependent they are upon the contributions of the charitable, it is evident what wide-spread and disastrous results may result from the mere want of confidence in their administration. And still more danger must inevitably be caused by the irritation and suspicion which is now taking such definite shape and expression.

For all this advancing trouble and damage the blame sooner or later must be placed upon the shoulders of those who have attempted, for petty purposes of their own, to obstruct the inevitable progress and success of Nursing reform. We do not envy them their position in public, and in professional, estimation when the day of reckoning comes, as come it most inevitably will.

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"Now, doctor," he said, as he joined the medical gentleman in the street, "in the case of a man who can't sleep at night, what would you advise?" "I would advise him to sleep in the daytime."

MAN excepted, no creature is valued beyond its proper qualities. We commend a horse for its strength and sureness of foot, not for his rich caparisons; a greyhound for his heels, not for his fine collar; a hawk for his wings, not for his jesses and bells. Why not, in like manner, esteem a man for what is properly his own?

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