

plains to them the intense animosity which has been displayed in Mr. Burdett's paper to the Association from the date of its birth until now, and especially upon this matter of Registration, which it took out of his hands. Our contention is that the Association, however strong, should not allow its members, or would-be members, to be deceived. Many have written to us asking whether they should retire from a body to whose charge this, that, or the other misdemeanour was laid. Others have said they could on no account associate themselves with what Mr. Burdett's paper was allowed to term "the scum of the Nursing profession" without being called to sharp account for such an outrageous piece of abuse. And yet others, again, have informed us that they had resigned their membership of the Association because it only seemed to expose them to the insults of the *Hospital*.

We have no *locus standi* in the matter. We formerly attempted to defend the Association, but were expressly requested to discontinue our efforts.

But in all earnestness we call upon the Association, for the sake of its individual members, to arouse itself, and take some action now. Because the latest example of Mr. Burdett's hostility is rather more striking than usual. Our readers will find in another column a full account of the matter to which we refer; and we commend it to the dispassionate consideration of any who wish to understand why the British Nurses' Association has been so persistently attacked, and from whom these attacks have emanated. They will observe that because a Miss Gertrude Johnstone left Teignmouth Infirmary last January under suspicion of theft, and because the name of a Miss Gertude W. Johnstone appears now and then on the List of Members of the B.N.A., Mr. Burdett straightway—and without making the slightest attempt to identify the latter with the former—pretends to believe that the Miss Johnstone, who is a Member of the Association, is a thief and an impostor. It is most earnestly to be hoped that the lady who has thus been so scandalously and wantonly insulted will bring an action in a court of law to clear her character.

But it is with the question as it affects the Association that we have now chiefly to do. Because Mr. Burdett asserts that not only is the suspected thief a member, but that he was informed that she was also one of the first eight hundred Registered Nurses. We learn upon the best authority that this is also untrue. "Miss Gertrude Johnstone is not amongst the one thousand two hundred Nurses now registered, and the Secretary never informed Mr. Burdett that she 'was among the eight hundred *élite* who had applied for

Registration.'" But upon these false statements is founded a strong argument against the Register of Nurses. Mr. Burdett has overlooked the fact that he has supplied a powerful piece of evidence as to the value of Registration in excluding just such black sheep as the one he instances from the recognised ranks of the Nursing profession. But the matter we hope is sufficiently important to force the Association to make a decision which must be most momentous to its future well-being and prosperity. Does it intend to treat these attacks upon its members and itself in future, as in the past, with calm contempt; to find them branded in a public print as "the scum of the Nursing profession"; and individually as thieves, impostors, or what not; or does it mean to protect itself and its Nurses against the recurrence of such insults? Public opinion in England is very sensitive upon such matters. The Press of this country is, with the rarest exceptions, essentially fair, and we earnestly counsel the Association to make public—as it easily could—a simple statement of the facts of the case as between itself and Mr. Burdett and his few supporters and co-workers.

### OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

#### PART I.—MATERNAL.

##### CHAPTER VI.—LACTATION (DUTIES DURING).

(Continued from page 269.)

THERE is another point about this "first getting up" that I would impress upon your mind, and that is to take the temperature of the room beforehand. There should be a thermometer in every lying-in room. It is not otherwise than prudent for an Obstetric Nurse to have one of her own; they are very cheap, and as useful to her almost as her clinical one, which in our portion of work we keep in our pockets as long as we can, as our patients regard them with distrust. It leads them to think they are ill, which we never admit till we are obliged. The thermometer should be hung on the *outside* wall of the room near the window. A temperature of 68° Fahr. should be maintained in the lying-in room day and night, regard being also paid to those ventilating measures I pointed out to you in a former paper. When the day temperature of the outside air is 70° Fahr., keep the window partly open all day. This remark also applies to the time of labour. Admit the outside air into the room until the birth of the child, day or night, if the temperature is over 68° Fahr., and in our

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)