

to avoidable dangers, and to injustice and cruelty which might be checked."

In conclusion, let us, as a profession, seek to elevate—not degrade—our labour. The newly-founded British Nurses' Association is, undoubtedly, a step in the right direction. We want "union" to promote greater skill, and to do honour to the most skilful; not to reduce the better Nurse to the level of the worst, and to try by combination to artificially enhance the price of our labour. Once again I would repeat—we must have a division of labour that leaves the Nurse a *thinking* being, not a mere automatic machine, if we are to ensure future prosperity and progress. "The world is striding on faster and faster every day; and if we do not keep pace with it we must learn to be content, sitting by the wayside, and looking at the pageantry of busy life from a distance." We want work for those who have hitherto been only respectable loungers in the vineyard, who are now standing or sitting watching those in the front ranks do a bit of work, and most probably criticising the way in which they are doing it; and we want, somehow or other, the right workers in the right places. And if we do not stop to evolve these problems the next generation will.—Yours faithfully,

THEODORA.

#### L'HONNEUR OBLIGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I imagine there are few readers of our journal, who happen to be also members of the B.N.A., who have not read with feelings of hot indignation the disgraceful attack made upon one of our members, and through her the Association, reported and commented upon in your issue of the 12th inst.

There is an old saying, that if you only throw mud enough about, some of it is sure to stick, whether upon the right cheek or the wrong is a matter of small moment to minds of the calibre of that practised mud-thrower, Mr. H. C. Burdett. In the last instance his missile hit and injured an innocent woman and a member of the B.N.A.; it is not to that maligned lady that my remarks apply, for Miss Johnstone has ample grounds for vindicating her own honour. To my mind the transaction is far more than a personal one—no petty squabble or trade dispute over a matter of fees and charges, but one that concerns the honour of the B.N.A., and for very obvious reasons.

When our Registration scheme was promulgated, *moral character* was made one of the conditions of Registration by a Nurse, and from its first beginning the leaders of the B.N.A. reserved to themselves a right, upon just and lawful grounds, to expel from our midst any member who should have been proved to be unworthy of membership. I confess there have been times, and oftentimes, when I have thought that this matter of *character* might be slightly overdone, and felt some doubt as to whether it did not rather detract from than add to the dignity of the Nursing profession to send a Nurse forth to her work with a set of rules in one pocket and her moral virtues in another. However, wiser heads and better judges have decided otherwise. Now what is the logical sequence of this attribute? Surely this: if moral character is a *sine qua non* of Registration or membership, a defence of it should be one of the first duties of leadership, as regards members of the B.N.A., one of whom has been publicly, wantonly, and unjustly "mixed up" with a thief and an impostor, and with her the honour of our Association has been assailed. How long are these envenomed attacks to be borne in silence, which, if it spell "contempt," may by many minds be mistaken for weakness?

As I ride in a tramcar I read a list of convictions for infringing bye-laws of the company. Thus, "John Jones, for assaulting guard, ten shillings and costs, or a month's imprisonment." "Thomas Smith, for using bad language and insulting lady passenger, ditto." A fellow, who refused to

pay his fare (one penny), fined five shillings, and so on. A public company can protect its employes from injury, and its lady passengers from insult; cannot, then, our leaders protect their members from both? Have they not equal power and equal right to do so? Are those members of the B.N.A. who would like to have a *public apology demanded* from Mr. H. C. Burdett so very unreasonable in their desires? and can so just a request be wisely ignored by our leaders?—I am, Sir, yours truly,

MARIAN HUMFREY.

#### LOSE NO CHANCE OF GIVING PLEASURE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—The following little item, culled from "The World's Gossip" of a provincial newspaper of the 7th June, will doubtless be appreciated by the admirers of Mrs. Garrett Anderson. "Allow no such word as failure; the man who has such an idea in his head does fail."—Yours in good hope,

NIL DESPERANDUM.

"How that indefatigable pioneer of women Surgeons, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, must sometimes exult in the great results which have followed her lead. A free Hospital for women students, facility in obtaining degrees, public recognition and private approbation and appreciation; and now triumphant vindication of the truism that there is no sex in intellect. Miss Fleury has come through the Dublin examination with pre-eminent success, being the first in order of merit in the first class, and thus winning the University Exhibition of £40."

#### A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—May I ask your kind correspondent, who writes under the title, "Creed, or no Creed," to kindly refer again to my letter, and she will *not* find therein the words, "by a clergyman," I think? To Ada B. Tyson I will hope to have somewhat to say in due course. All I ask now is a calm and fair analysis of this momentous question, free from prejudice and bias, and, if practicable, without descension to "personalities."—Faithfully yours,

AN UNSECTARIAN EYE-WITNESS.

### COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. SEVENTEENTH COMPETITION.

A Book of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay as under:—

Give full particulars, with Notes as to Temperature, Dietary, &c., of at least Four "Cases," Medical, Surgical, Mental, or Monthly, Nursed by Competitor herself, and describing the Case from its commencement to its termination. Temperature and Diet-charts, &c., should accompany Essay if possible.

#### RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.," not later than Monday, June 30, 1890.

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs.) of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

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