

## THE "NURSING RECORD'S" STATEMENTS.

II.—That because a Miss Gertrude Johnstone left Teignmouth Infirmary last January under suspicion of theft, and because the name of Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone appears now and then on the list of Members of the B.N.A., Mr. Burdett straightway, and without 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.

III.—Mr. Burdett asserts that not only is the suspected thief a Member, but that he was informed that she was one of the eight hundred Registered Nurses. We learn upon the best authority that this is also untrue. The Secretary of the B.N.A. never informed Mr. Burdett that she was among the eight hundred *elite* who had applied for Registration.

IV.—Mr. Burdett and his few supporters and co-workers.

## THE FACTS.

meeting of the Council held the 17th of May, 1887, at which six members of the Sectional Committee were present. *Mr. Burdett was not a member of the Sectional Committee.* Subsequently a majority of the Sectional Committee having retired, the Chairman and Honorary Secretary also retired from the Committee and from the Association. Numerous applications for Registration were received from Nurses, and on the 13th of December, 1887, a special Committee of fifteen ladies and gentlemen were appointed to consider the whole question of the Registration of Trained Nurses and to communicate with the Nurse Training Schools. Dr. Steele, of Guy's Hospital, was appointed the Chairman, and on the 28th of March, 1888, the opinions of the authorities of Training Schools having been received, this joint Committee presented its report, which was adopted. This report stated "the results of the enquiry all tend to confirm the opinion that it would be premature to recommend to the Council any basis on which a general system of Registration for Nurses should be formed"; and in consequence the forms of application, testimonials, and fees received from Nurses were returned to them with an intimation of the decision of the Council.

II.—No mention has ever been made of Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone as stated in the paragraph. The statement in the *Hospital* about Miss Gertrude Johnstone was made after a correspondence extending over a period of several months. The statement in the *Hospital* was that "Miss Johnstone, who had decamped from Teignmouth Infirmary, leaving the Committee considerably in debt." "Thief" and "impostor" are the inventions of the *Nursing Record*.

III.—The statement made was that "Miss Gertrude Johnstone was among the eight hundred *elite* who had applied for Registration," which was based on the following letter:—

"April 29, 1890.

"In reply to yours of the 28th inst., Miss Gertrude Johnstone has applied for Registration, and I should be obliged, therefore, if you could give me any further information about her.—I am, &c.,

"HELEN FOGGO-THOMSON,

"Registrar B.N.A."

The statements referred to were not made by Mr. Burdett at all, but by the editor of the Nursing Supplement to the *Hospital*, who is one of the ablest of the lady journalists (as you yourself have testified), and also a Certificated and Trained Nurse.

IV.—Upwards of one hundred Hospitals and institutions have officially condemned the scheme of Registration put forward by the B.N.A.

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