

## THE "NURSING RECORD'S" STATEMENTS.

V.—Mr. Burdett's paper termed the members of the Association "the scum of the nursing profession," and stated that this was "fair criticism."

Finally, we have to point out that, so far from the *Hospital* taking up a position of reckless malice or accusation against anything in which the true interests of Nurses are involved, it has simply, as the representative organ of the Institutions who train Nurses, endeavoured to make it clear what the objections to the Registration Scheme of the B.N.A. really are. In proof of this we have only to point to the recent issues of the *Hospital*, in which the attempt of some of the active members of the B.N.A. to establish a Home of Rest for Nurses is not only commended but supported in the most generous and energetic terms.

We should be very glad to hear from Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone, who was not referred to in the *Hospital*, but who, we hope, will take steps to make her identity perfectly clear. Any information we possess concerning the Miss Gertrude Johnstone referred to in the *Hospital* is entirely at the disposal of the B.N.A., or yourself, and may be seen on personal application at our offices.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

The publishers, we are given to understand, also received a similar communication, together with one marked "private," the purport of the latter being not, perhaps, altogether difficult to define, and which we imagine can hardly be in strict accordance with the spirit of the code of "journalistic courtesy" and ethics which Messrs. Slaughter and May on a previous occasion, and on behalf of their clients a little over a year ago, when we had occasion to criticise adversely the National Pension Fund, were so anxious to impose upon us. We are afraid, from what we can learn, that the recent reckless statements made in the *Hospital* are likely to assume a very

## THE FACTS.

The signatories include the presidents, chairmen of committees, medical lecturers and teachers in the nursing schools, Lady Superintendents and Matrons, who collectively represent the views of those who have a right to express an opinion on this subject in the completest possible way. Striking testimony of these facts is afforded by a pamphlet published at the *Hospital* offices, entitled "The Registration of Nurses," in which all the names of the signatories to the protest are given.

V.—The *Hospital* has never described the members of the Association, or indeed anybody, as "the scum of the nursing profession." A letter from a correspondent, "A Certificated Trained Nurse," was published in the Nursing Supplement of the *Hospital*, of the 18th of May, 1889, page 25, which contained the following sentence in reference to the action of the British Nurses' Association, in making every woman actually engaged in nursing eligible for Registration up to a given date:—"And suppose that Hospital Nurses, who have toiled through their two or three years' training and finally obtained their precious certificate, and by their conscientious work have won the respect and goodwill of those in authority over them, will such wish to be mixed up in a sort of hotch-potch with the scum of the nursing profession?"

SLAUGHTER AND MAY.

"ugly" shape indeed, as they have caused an amount of irritation and indignation in the "recognised" portion of the Nursing world such as we feel sure that neither even the Editor of the *Hospital*, nor Messrs. Slaughter and May can be cognisant of. We have, therefore, no desire to say anything which may perhaps be construed into being likely to prejudice any steps which may be taken in this deplorable matter; but we do say this—that the Editor of the *Hospital* must surely now be fully convinced of the utterly false position he occupies at the present time in respect to the statement regarding Miss Johnstone; and we should like to see him

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