

have the courage to openly and straightforwardly admit his error, or the error of his subordinates, and apologise to that lady in a fair and frank manner, and so prevent any further allusion on our part to what is to us a most disagreeable subject. The opportunity at the same time should be taken to withdraw the obnoxious epithet directly or indirectly applied to the British Nurses' Association, *i.e.*, "the scum of the Nursing profession"; as also that expression comparing the "Home of Rest for Nurses" with the "Dogs' Home," &c. These things being done, it would only be our pleasure to acknowledge that some ambitious writer on the staff of the *Hospital* has "over-vaulted" herself, and got into some sloughy ground, from which she cannot very easily extricate herself without fully and spontaneously acting upon our suggestion.

We are not impelled by any personal feeling in the matter, for we have not the pleasure of even the slightest acquaintance with the Editor of the *Hospital*, or any of his subordinates, and we, therefore, enter upon our forcible protest in perfect dispassionateness; and so long as it is necessary to take up the cudgels against an adversary who is not too scrupulous in his tactics, and to publicly and openly challenge those tactics, at whatever cost, we shall continue to do so, for we should be wanting in all journalistic courage if we refrained from meeting insults which are constantly being levelled at the members of an honourable body of gentlewomen—who, with one of the most popular and gracious of our Royal princesses at their head, have dared to venture to organize themselves for the purpose of obtaining legitimate, laudable, and ennobling ends—in the way they fully deserve to be met.

### NURSING ECHOES.

\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

How history does repeat itself! Mr. Henry C. Burdett in these columns this week rehearses the first Biblical narrative, and being called to account as Editor of the *Hospital* for its recent malicious libel, plays the part of Old Adam, and throws all the blame on the woman. Now it is his assistant's turn, and we shall watch with much curiosity to hear if there is still a bold, bad serpent in the East that she



can prove tempted her to make all this mischief. It is rumoured that the matter is not to be allowed to drop, and, for the future comfort and protection of Nurses, I almost hope that the news is true.

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A CORRESPONDENT sends me the following from our contemporary *Charity*, which aptly proves how the public already realise the importance of the B.N.A. :—

#### THE HOSPITAL NURSE.

DEDICATED TO THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THEY do their work so deftly—those dear hands  
That smooth the pillows of the sick and ailing;  
They reach out with a power that commands  
And summons peace, when hope is unavailing.

They shine so softly—those deep, earnest eyes,  
They look so steadily upon the dying;  
The soul departing pauses in surprise  
To see its image mirrored in them lying.

They speak so gently—those compassionate lips—  
The sweetness of their music never losing—  
That as the phrase between their portals slips  
It seems as if it was an angel's choosing.

They glide so noiselessly—those willing feet,  
Faint falling with a moderated measure;  
The motion that in them is all so fleet  
In others would but seem the pace of leisure.

It throbs so grandly—that unselfish heart,  
With impulses so infinitely tender;  
Could eye behold, 'twould in its inmost part  
See there a blazing jewel's blood-red splendour.

She does her work, and seeks for no reward—  
A humble wage is all her earthly payment;  
She does her duty of her own accord,  
Nor reckons up its price in food and raiment.

But when God, circled by His hosts, shall give  
Equivalent for His talents' augmentation,  
And bid the Nurse love on in Heaven, and live,  
Great shall her glory be, and jubilation!

F. ERNEST POWER.

\* \* \*

THE *Manchester Guardian*, as might have been expected from its high standing in the Press world, takes a far different view of Nursing matters than two of its contemporaries, who permit themselves to be misled by a correspondent whose hostility to the members of her vocation is unhappily now notorious. Of the following criticism in the columns of the *Guardian* I feel sure no Member of the B.N.A. would complain. In justice, however, I must explain to our contemporary that only a very few Medical men have opposed the Association; the great majority have accorded it a thoroughly loyal and steadfast support, and are doing so in increasing numbers, I hear, every year as its plans become better known.

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