

bare necessities of life—edible food, an unbroken night's sleep, and a fair day's work.

If the Nurses of Glasgow will combine and act together they must win. We will gladly publish any letters they send us, and will assist them in every way in our power. We advise them to draw up and sign, and first present to the Directors, and then send to the daily papers, a brief statement of the grievances of which they complain, and of the reforms which they demand. Amongst these latter we would suggest that they should embody—*First*, the establishment of a Nursing Committee, to consist of ladies, members of the medical staff, and some of the Directors, which shall have full control over the department, and to which any Nurse can make a direct complaint. *Second*, that a more liberal and varied dietary for the Nurses shall be drawn up, and that one of the Nursing Committee shall occasionally—but without notice of his or her intention to do so—dine with the Nurses, and report in a book thereafter the quality of the food and cooking. *Third*, that day and night duty shall be kept absolutely distinct; that Probationers and Nurses shall have three consecutive weeks' holiday each year; that they shall have three hours off duty—including meal-times—each day; and a half day off duty once a fortnight. *Fourth*, that no Ward—for the safety of the patients—shall be provided with less than two Nurses on duty. *Fifth*, that the duties of the Nurses should be rigidly restricted to nursing the patients in the Wards, and that all heavy manual labour should be done by the porters.

THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" ON NURSING.

WE observe, with much pleasure, that our influential contemporary is at length following the lead of other professional and lay journals, and devoting some space and thought to Nursing affairs. We trust that this will lead in due course to a larger knowledge of the subject being acquired than it possesses at present. Our contemporary is startled at the idea of a Nurse being alleged to be on duty—as at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow—"for sixteen hours at a stretch, and after the day's work is over, being roused out of bed to take charge of some special case"; and adds, that "it is hard to believe that such is the practice at any public or private Hospital." If our contemporary would realise that, as a great professional organ, it has duties towards Nurses, and would devote a minute fraction of its great energy and ability to an inquiry into Nursing abuses, it would soon discover some extreme hardships to which Nurses are subject in the way of overwork. It would be astonished to learn, for example, that there are probably not two private Hospitals

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—out of the many which exist—in London, which have regular Night Nurses; but that the Day Nurses, after being on-duty for fifteen or sixteen hours, are compelled to sleep in their patients' rooms—whether the patient be a man or a woman—and are roused from their couch again and again, night after night, week after week. To our minds, the system is one of heartless cruelty, and as unfair to the patient as it is to the Nurse.

AN OFFICIAL DIRECTORY OF TRAINED NURSES.

ONLY three weeks ago we prophesied that the legislation for Nurses at the Cape showed that legislation in England was only a question of time. The most recent disclosure proves that it is nearer than we anticipated. It is announced that the Nurse Training Schools will commence an *official* Directory of Trained Nurses "on the 1st of January next." We most heartily congratulate the Royal British Nurses' Association, therefore, on the near consummation of its proposals. On November 6, 1889, the Association issued a circular letter to every Nurse Training School in the United Kingdom, suggesting that, to meet the grave evils which now exist, the Schools should combine, and that under their control a "system should be enforced which would (1) furnish an official and easily-ascertained guarantee of the technical efficiency of every Trained Nurse or Midwife; (2) prevent any Certificated Nurse or Midwife who has been proved unworthy of trust from again disgracing her Training School and her calling." We have very frequently contended that the Training Schools would be compelled by the force of public opinion to carry out the proposals of the Association, and now it has come to pass. We confess that, after their great and very recent protestations, we had not expected such a speedy surrender, and, moreover, that we should have been glad to have received the news from a more veracious source. But the fact is publicly stated, and we will hope for the best; because the publication of the official Directory of course will settle the question of Registration at once. The large number of names which such a Directory doubtless will contain, joined to those on the Register and upon *The Nursing Directory*, will prove that the Nursing profession requires to be legislated for, and that the few Training School managers who hitherto have opposed Registration, on the ground that it was unnecessary and harmful, have discovered their mistake, and, like wise people, have retired from an untenable position. We warmly applaud their sensible conduct. We have denounced them for their opposition to a measure urgently needed for the protection of the sick. Now that they have frankly acknowledged their error, and are about to repair it to the best of their ability, we shall be delighted to forget what has passed. It may be taken for granted that a Bill for the Registration of Nurses will now be introduced into Parliament next session, and with such patent proofs of the need for legislation as a Register and two Directories evince, the Bill should have a very fair chance of passing.

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