

wrecked has been the conduct of its business department, and, herein, we consider that the greatest triumph of *The Nurses' Journal* has been achieved. The excellent style of the editorials, the important information contained in the original articles, and the great interest of the reports of meetings might have been expected. But that purely professional workers should possess such special abilities in editing and publishing as are displayed in our contemporary, has attracted much notice and elicited many expressions of surprise. Hitherto, it has been universally held that the business and literary departments of a journal were irreconcilably distinct, and in consequence the Editor and the Publisher are invariably separate individuals. The Journal Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association has undertaken both departments and carried them out with conspicuous success, for we learn that the fourth number of *The Nurses' Journal* shows an income from advertisements which leaves a profit, after paying all the expenses of the printing and of the postage of about three thousand copies, free, to Members of the Association in all parts of the world.

The immense amount of labour, organization, and trouble which such a result implies, can, perhaps, only be realised by journalists; and very heartily do we congratulate the Royal British Nurses' Association upon its good fortune in possessing a Journal Committee able, as well as willing, to give such invaluable services in its cause.

There is much, in this present issue of our contemporary, which is very important to Nurses generally, as well as to the Members of the Association in particular. It commences with an Editorial on the subject to which, we are glad to know, we first drew attention—the recent Medical Act passed by the Parliament of the Cape of Good Hope. After briefly summarising the clauses which refer to the Registration of Nurses, it is stated that efforts are now being made in other Colonies to obtain similar legislation. Every Nurse in the United Kingdom ought to reflect upon the inevitable outcome of these facts, and we feel impelled, therefore, to bring to our readers' notice the following paragraphs in which these results are succinctly and clearly stated:—

“Nurses in the Cape Colony, therefore, occupy a higher and a better position than their fellow-workers in any other part of the world, for they are members of a profession recognised by law, and controlled by the State. They are protected

Loefflund's Hordeum Compounds.—C. Pepsin (in dyspepsia), c. Iron in chlorosis, anaemia, jaundice, pleasant and digestible for ladies and children), c. Quinine (an excellent tonic in neuralgia, nervous headache, and debility), C. Lime (—hypophosphit, in rickets, scrofulosis, very digestible. 3s. 6d. R. Baetz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

from the unfair competition—to which Nurses everywhere else are subject—with incompetent and unskilled workers. Their ranks can be legally purified from the black sheep which in every other country are still permitted, with impunity, to disgrace Nurses and Nursing in the public estimation.”

“Are British Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland content to fall behind their sisters in the outlying Colonies of the Empire—to remain always as they are now, and as they have hitherto been, members of an unorganised, undisciplined, legally unrecognised calling? Are they content to be classed in the public mind with the ‘Nurses’ who constantly figure in the police-courts, and are convicted of drunkenness, theft, and forgery, or even of graver crimes, yet who, when they issue from prison, can immediately resume their occupation and bring renewed disgrace upon it? Are they content to be forced to compete in the labour market, after years of diligent work and training, with any ignorant woman who pleases to don a cap and apron and dub herself a ‘Hospital Nurse’? If Trained Nurses in the United Kingdom are not desirous either to accept an inferior position to that of their Colonial sisters, or that the present manifestly unjust conditions should be continued, they have the remedy, practically, in their own hands. Every Nurse who is Registered, and who becomes a Member of the Association, is doing her share towards bringing about greatly-needed reforms, and, in fact, is doing her duty to herself and to her profession. When Nurses realise this, we cannot believe that anyone will hang back and permit others to bear all the burden and heat of the struggle for advantages in which she must participate when they have been won.”

We cordially echo these words, and ask our readers to give them their most serious consideration. We are well aware of the immense difficulties with which the Association has had to contend in its courageous struggle to bring about reform. We have seen the enormous amount of passive lethargy which exists among Nurses themselves, and which must have hampered progress much more than the small but noisy opposition can have done. We have received letters from women, evidently well educated, who quietly confessed their intention not to join the Royal British Nurses' Association until it had got its Charter—in other words until all the hard work and fighting was over. We have reason to

Loefflund's Alpine Milk Rusks (ground) ensure the most perfect development of bone and muscle in growing children from 6 months to 2 years of age. Prevents rickets, scurvy, and ensures healthy progress at the most critical period. Invaluable in teething. 1s. 6d. R. Baetz and Co., 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)