

Nurses and the leaders of the medical profession in their efforts to do the former and prevent the latter; to hinder them in carrying out, as a voluntary measure, the self-same system which your Grace so strongly advocates should be adopted for Plumbers, and which all of you must be aware has been enforced by law for various professions for many years past. You are using all your influence to bolster up the most grave abuses and most crying evils. You are doing so, not of your own knowledge, nor for your own purposes, for you clearly do not understand the gravity of the question, and you stand too highly in the estimation of your countrymen for any sordid motives to be imagined possible. But you have been entirely and utterly misled. It is rumoured that you have never even inquired into the other side of the subject, and have even refused to hear it explained. Whether that be so or not, we urge you, for the sake of the Institutions you represent, to inquire into the truth of the statements upon which you have hitherto relied. For it is quite clear that the public mind is aroused on the matter, that this new movement is the natural outcome of the violent opposition which the Royal British Nurses' Association has experienced, and that the public is about to demand protection for itself.

#### CANONISATION OF THE FOUNDRRESS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY.

IN canonising the noble woman who was the fellow-worker of Vincent de St. Paul, and who aided him to organise the celebrated Sisters of Mercy, who have "no monasteries but the houses of the sick; no cell but a hired room; no cloisters but the streets of the town and the Wards of a Hospital," and whose work is known and valued throughout the world, the Pope has bestowed the highest honour the Roman Catholic Church can award on one who, if any have ever done so, certainly deserved it. Her name was Louise de Marillac, and she was a niece of the celebrated Maréchal de Marillac, whom Richelieu beheaded. She was married at the age of twenty-one, and it was not until after the death of her husband, M. de Gras, that, at the age of thirty-four, she devoted herself to charitable works. The order is said now to number more than thirty thousand members.

#### THE BADGE.

It is curious how, in this present age, the old idea of artists and craftsmen banding together, for mutual aid and protection, has been revived again, though in a different form, and the masters of the guilds are beginning to see that, without some central body which can control the individual workers, things go very far astray from their right path. Like Rudyard Kipling's

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gorilla, men have, naturally, two much Ego in their Kosmos. In old days, the pains and penalties which awaited the man who presumed to work at a trade or craft, without having passed through his proper apprenticeship, were too great to make it possible for many to dare to labour as "masterless men" outside the protecting and controlling power of the guild. So they toiled and laboured in its shadow, and were strong, in troublesome times, through the strength of union. And now, again, we band ourselves together, not often, it is true, in guilds, but in associations and leagues and kindred alliances, too numerous to mention, which, under Royal Charters and other legal instruments, have a very strong and moral power; and, amongst them, is our own Royal British Nurses' Association, which, though not yet armed with legal rights, confers many privileges and advantages upon its members and is now about to adorn them with its Badge. For with the old, never-dying, desire for association and fellowship in work, lives the same old desire for signs, symbols, and tokens. So the members of the Primrose League go gaily bedecked with badges, ribbons, and crosses; and the Oddfellows and Freemasons are very bright in their manifold decorations and their many coloured aprons. The fondness for an outward and visible sign is as strong in grown men and women as it is in children—and is too deeply rooted to be denied. And on the 4th of December we shall see many hundred Nurses receiving at the hand of their Royal President a badge which will confirm their connection with an association which touches hands and forms a connecting link between the proud old mediæval guilds, that would tolerate no unworthy workman in their midst, but guarded jealously the honour of their art and handicraft—and the modern profession of Nursing whose members, we trust, will accept their tokens in the true and loyal spirit of their forefathers.

#### PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES AND HIS NURSES.

IT is gratifying to all loyal subjects, and to our sailor Prince's many admirers in particular, to hear that the attack of typhoid, from which he is suffering, is only a mild case, and that he is progressing favourably. It is also gratifying to Nurses, as showing the light in which the Nursing profession is regarded by the outside world, to observe that the daily papers not only give the names of the Nurses who are attending upon the Prince, but are also careful to mention that "they both graduated in London Hospitals." That a Nurse needs to "graduate," to be educated, that is to say, step by step, before she is fit to undertake responsible professional work, is daily becoming more apparent to the public, and that opinion finds a very natural expression—although to professional ears in a very unusual form—in the paragraph in question. Those who are fond of curious coincidences will doubtless, already, have observed that Prince George has been attacked with typhoid in the same month in which his grandfather—just thirty years ago—and his father—just twenty years ago—were prostrated by the same disease.

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