

Committee Room of the London Hospital—an Institution dubbed “the very octopus of sweating”? Not only are its dependents mulcted of their unjust earnings, when sent out private nursing in their second year—encouraged to pose as Trained Nurses—but they are mulcted of their training, too. But by its own Report its acts bewray it. *Net profit* on Probationers and Private Nurses’ labour for the year 1891, £1,392. And we are told, and are expected to believe, that this is what “the Nurses prefer”!

OUR esteemed contemporary, *The Provincial Medical Journal*, says, *re* the burning question of Registration:—

“We have advocated the Registration of Nurses, and we are very much astonished to find that there are any opponents to such a measure. We believe that in a short time Registration will be an accomplished fact, and we must congratulate the British Nurses’ Association upon the work they have done towards securing this most desirable result. The arguments against Registration are almost the same as were used against the Registration of medical men and dentists. If a sufficiently high qualification be insisted upon, so as to bring nursing up to a general high level, the Registered of the future will, of course, be more superior than the Registered of to-day; but, so far as we understand the scheme of the British Nurses’ Association, the Register of to-day will be sufficiently safe-guarded to provide against incompetence. He who runs may read in it each Nurse’s qualification, for it will be a public book.”

I HEAR that a great public meeting will be held at the Mansion House, on Friday, March 18, at four p.m., in support of the Royal British Nurses’ Association. H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN will be present, and several leading members of the medical profession have promised to speak. Cards can be obtained from the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street. It will doubtless be an historic gathering, so I advise all my readers who can possibly be present, to send a stamped and addressed envelope, asking for a card, at once, to the Secretary. I hear that each card will admit friends, so that one will admit a whole party. Members of the Association will, of course, make a point of giving their hearty support to their President and leaders on such an occasion, so that the Egyptian Hall will probably be crowded from end to end.

SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE—or, to give her her present name, Mrs. LUTZ—in a letter from Honolulu, says: “We are quite happy now in our island home, though in such a far-off country many things are missing to make it feel like ‘home.’ Dr. LUTZ does not work any more at the Leper Hospital, but he does much for the poor Portuguese, of whom there are very many, and who, from various reasons, are much worse off than the natives;

“THERE is now being built at the leper settlement (with English money) a nice reading-room, to be provided with games, books, &c. Three gentlemen of Honolulu have kindly undertaken to superintend the building, and the Board of Health has given permission, seeing how beneficial to the poor lepers is innocent amusement and food for the mind. Any illustrated papers which might be sent out will be most welcome. Mr. DREIZEHNER, Kalaupapa, Molokai, Hawaiian Islands, would be very glad to take charge of them and see that they are placed in the reading-room,

“THE lepers are so happy in having this recreation provided for them; and, as all the present generation can read English, this is really the best thing that could be done for them. The houses and homes built for them are more than sufficient.”

THE *Lancet* has an excellent annotation on the Male Nurses’ Mutual Benefit Association, the last co-operative society in the nursing world which has sprung into existence, and to which we wish every success. It says:—

“A nursing agency, formed under the above title, has just commenced operations for the purpose of providing Trained and Certificated Male Nurses upon terms which shall secure to the Nurses themselves the full benefit of their earnings. The principle of such organisations is one which we cannot but approve, since the existing agencies are unquestionably in many instances conducted in such a way as to leave much to be desired from the point of view of the Nurse, the proportion of the Nurses’ earnings which is absorbed by the mere machinery of the agency being so excessive as to merit the reproach of extravagance. When these deductions go to make a private fortune there is no reason why any tenderness should be manifested towards the system which injures, in the interest of the private adventurer, both the public and the Nurse. Where the agency is conducted by a Hospital or Nursing School, the case is in a measure different, for it is undoubtedly convenient to the Nurses that they should have the opportunity of defraying in this way the cost of their education, and the public gets the benefit of a guarantee of efficiency endorsed by the Training Institution. Yet even in this connection the fitting limit of the trainer’s lien upon the Nurse’s earnings is not always observed, and cases of hardship undoubtedly arise even where the desire of those who preside over the administration to deal fairly is open to no doubt whatever. These voluntary associations of Nurses for the purpose of minimising agency expenses may therefore be very fitly encouraged in the interest both of the public and of the Nurse. If they succeed in maintaining a high standard of efficiency, they will benefit both parties. The benefit to the Nurse is obvious. The benefit to the public is no less real, since the cost of the Nurse’s services is necessarily aggravated by the addition of agency charges which, whether great or small, must, like all other costs of the same kind, be paid by the customer. The public, then, has a substantial pecuniary interest in arrangements which minimise the additional charges, and place at its disposal the Nurse’s services at but an inconsiderable cost beyond the Nurse’s pay. So much—and it is a very substantial advantage—the Nurses’ Associations have in their favour; whether they will eventually suc-

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