A NOVEL suggestion with reference to the making of bread poultices appeared last week in the domestic column of an influential provincial newspaper. After giving full directions for the preparing and mixing of the bread and water (which, by the by, were all wrong), it wound up by strongly advising that no oil should be spread on the surface to keep it moist, as the great advantage of a bread poultice consisted in its absolute dryness and hardness! It is rather a pity that such "dabblers" in Nursing should be able to so mislead a trusting and guileless public.

I MUST confess that I have every sympathy with the proposed Trades' Union for domestic servants. It is always a step towards progress when any class of workers desire to organise a system of self-help. But it is utterly useless to combine unless there is at the same time a strong effort to raise the standard of the calling, whatever it may happen to be. Organising untrained servants must inevitably prove a failure. But if the promoters of the scheme are wise in their generation, they will demand some evidence of training before allowing any servant to put his

or her name on a Register. It is a great mistake for employers to place any obstacle in the way of this Registration scheme, because if it be properly carried out, it should prove a protection to the public against inefficient or dishonest domestics, just in the same way as the R B.N.A. protects it against untrained Nurses.

It is an intolerable thing that employers are so absolutely at the mercy of their servants. There is no system of training, no standard of efficiency, in any one branch of household work. Any woman can state she is a good cook or house-maid, and she can generally get her statement endorsed by some employer who either knows nothing of the necessary qualifications for a domestic in a properly-organised household, or who, more often still, is glad to get well rid of a bad bargain, by passing her off to someone else. In the near future there will have to be Training Schools for servants, with Certificates of competency and good character, with some licensing body that can endorse these Certificates in case of proved incompetency or bad behaviour.

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JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary.

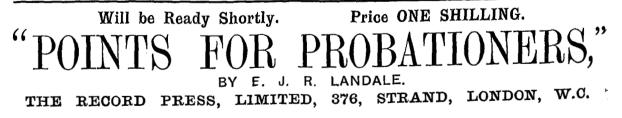


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364



