

Nursing Progress.

BY MRS. ORMISTON CHANT.

THE opposition to the Registration of Nurses reminds one forcibly of the opposition that meets every step forward and upward. The fears and misgivings of the unprogressives and the over-cautious come trotting out at every proposed reform, like the animals in a child's Noah's Ark. To be sure, they are becoming somewhat time-worn and antiquated; here an arm gone from Shem, and the wooden stand from Noah; a leg from the camel, and a tail from the cow. But just breathe of a useful reform, or a step or two along the road of progress, and out they come from their ark, to present their wooden terrors to an awe-stricken audience, and . . . get a little new paint, and fresh glue!

Nevertheless, in spite of them, organization and solidarity continue to be the necessity of the day for all callings and professions, for the strength and protection of those engaged in them; and officially guaranteed standards of fitness, the need of those who invoke the aid of these callings and professions.

Nursing, of all the professions, has been the worst treated in this respect; and, to our shame be it spoken, the race of Sairey Gamps is not by any means extinct, nor is CHARLES DICKENS' picture of her an exaggeration. Only fancy what the twin profession of medicine would be like if deprived of the *esprit de corps* on the one side, and the guarantee (as far as possible) of fitness on the other, secured to it and the public by existing laws and conditions; if it were in as amorphous a condition as that of Nursing has hitherto been!

Think of Bill Sykes with some sweet burglaries in view, practising medicine with the freedom of a bone-setter, and the ignorance of a habitual tramp! Think of him setting up in some "sleepy hollow," within easy access of his quarry, unprosecuted, unlicensed, and undeterred!

Or 'Arry, as presumptuous as he is utterly ignorant, hard up through his habitual incapacity for sound work, or honest life, at full liberty to earn an undeserved fee whenever the credulity, or ignorance, or awful extremity of his vicims, opened the door for him!

Are there no female Bill Sykeses? No 'Arriet's "to match the men," as saith Mrs. Poyser?

But apart from this side of the question, is it not desirable, nay imperative, that every inducement be made that can be made, to cultured, high-thinking, gracious, and capable

women to bring the best types of womanhood, the best female brains, and the highest ideals of duty into such a nationally important calling as that of Nursing? The position of the Nurse of the future, under the honourable protection of a chartered profession, will be as far above that of Sairey Gamp, as Sir ANDREW CLARKE's position is above that of the barber-surgeon in the Old Savoy, who killed the same bear every week for twenty years, and who kept his bottles of leeches alongside of the precious hair-grease that made his fortune.

— Registration. —

BY AN OUTSIDER.

IN one way, it seems strange to the unprejudiced observer who is not biassed by feelings of self-interest or by the spirit of officialdom, that so much discussion should have arisen about Registration of Nurses. The Peerage, the Clergy, lawyers, doctors, solicitors, and heaven knows how many more professions, all have an official register. Why should not Nurses and the members of the Nursing profession—a profession as well defined as any of them—respectable, respected, indispensable to the community, and conferring on the community essential service, in so far as it is exercised by qualified individuals—have a Register too?

It almost staggers one to learn that such a Register will be a premium upon bad Nurses. Consider this Register. It contains the names of Nurses who have received training in Hospitals fitted from the extent and nature of their practice, to impart such training. And, forsooth, it is said that such details are of no interest to the public, calculated to mislead, rather. Good and bad Nurses will be alike entered upon the Register and passed off upon the public, who will assume that all are equally good, because all have had a special training. But what is passed off upon the public at present? It is said the public ought to inquire. But how can the public, in a hurry, distracted by the exigencies and anxieties of severe illness, enter into a long correspondence that may last a week or a fortnight, with a view to finding out whether a Nurse is reliable or not? By all means, let us have a Register which will at all events exclude palpable impostors

Opponents say that the mere fact that a Nurse has undergone training for a year or two and ob-

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