

"My position is just this. If you have a Register of Nurses, you must be prepared for the public placing an implicit belief in it." The immense danger and wickedness of this is evident, considering that the implicit belief of the public should, of course, be immutably placed in the Institution for supplying Private Nurses with which Miss HICKS is connected, and in no other body, person, or thing of any kind or description. Miss HICKS graciously expressed her opinion that, "so far as the three years' training goes, it is all right, and a guarantee as to the Nurses' qualifications will be provided." To our uninstructed minds this confession would have appeared a quite conclusive admission of the great value of Registration, because this is all the information which the Register possibly could or would supply. Miss HICKS then enunciated the views which appear to our contemporary to be so "intelligent"—but which we should describe by a very different adjective—in the following extraordinary words: "Few outsiders are aware of the tremendous temptations and perils in the life of a private Nurse—far more, I think, than in theatrical life . . . you must remember the Nurse is young, often good-looking, her patient may be a man, and, unless there is a great strength of character, there are critical moments when danger is very close. The salvation of the Nurse is having a Matron who will take an interest in her, give her counsel when she needs it, and to whom she is responsible." Putting aside the distinct inference in the last sentence, that there is no "salvation" for a private Nurse who is unconnected with any Institution, we must express the grave astonishment which all sections of the community feel, that our contemporary should have published such remarks. We do not presume to say that Miss PHILIPPA HICKS did not clearly understand what she was talking about. It is possible that in her considerable experience of the Nursing world she has become acquainted with facts upon which her views of the "tremendous temptations" of a

Nurse's life are founded. But it is impossible to understand what good purpose can have been served by such a sensational statement, made for publication in a lay journal. It is impossible to approve of the character of this pseudo-public utterance. And the great body of Nurses—women to whom all things are pure—will indignantly repudiate the thinly-veiled and utterly insulting insinuation, contained in the extraordinary statement which we have quoted. It will be long before the opprobrium thus cast on their vocation is forgotten by Nurses who respect themselves, and the noble profession to which they belong. But the assumption which underlies it, that women of mature age and experience, cannot be entrusted to take care of themselves, and uphold the honour and dignity of their calling; that, unless guarded by "a Matron," they cannot obtain "salvation;" that, unless kept in leading strings all their lives—and their labour exploited for somebody else's benefit, because that is the plain English of it—they must fall from grace; this assumption, in one form or another, has, for fifty years, been trotted out as an argument against any measure of reform desired by women. It is *en évidence* now, in its most rampant form, with reference to the registration of Nurses, and the public are seriously asked to believe that the publication of a list of Nurses' names and addresses will inevitably doom all persons concerned, to swift and certain perdition; and that the moral qualities and personal character of every individual Nurse designated in the Register will immediately, and, in consequence, deteriorate to the lowest depth of degradation. The argument is so preposterous, so wildly farcical, that it only needs to be thus stated to be pulverised; but it is being gravely advanced now, and probably will be resuscitated again and again, in future.

DEATH TRAPS.

A VERY unpleasant story has recently been made public, of how a widow rented a house belonging to a clergyman, the drains of which, as well as the water supply, appear to have been in a very unsatisfactory condition. Members of the household suffered continually, so ran the evidence, from "sewer throat," and one from typhoid fever, until the family

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