

have no hesitation in ascribing the authorship of the farcical scheme now advanced, to other hands than his.

The salient feature of the new scheme of this Committee was that nearly half the members of the Central Hospital Board should consist of representatives of the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds—self-elected bodies—of the latter of which, by the way, we believe Mr. BURDETT is a member. It is notorious how this official of the Stock Exchange meddles with matters with which he has no concern. So, in view of the general annoyance which his proceedings have caused, it is more than possible that the fact that he was known to be “promoting” a Central Hospital Board would by no means predispose a large and very influential section in favour of the project. Anyhow, the opponents have had little trouble, because the very absurdity of the proposals that were made, pulverised them; and, we fear, in their overthrow, the principle of a central controlling body has also received its *coup de grâce*. It is perhaps better that it should be so, under the existing circumstances, because the difficulties under which our Hospitals are, at present, labouring, is sufficiently great without having superadded to them an element of internal discord.

It is, now, well recognised in the Nursing world that the friction, which has existed in certain quarters, has been largely, if not entirely, caused by the interference of irresponsible and absolutely ignorant persons—who seek to obtain notoriety by posing as philanthropists—at somebody else's expense. And it would be only extending the sphere of such mischief if such persons were enabled, officially, to meddle with matters of which they have no practical knowledge, and with Hospitals and Nurses who decline to recognise their right of interference with them.

To show the results of a scheme for the set purpose of teaching Hospitals how to manage their own affairs, a good object lesson is furnished by the grotesque decadence of the Hospitals Association—of which Mr. BURDETT was the founder and chief

worker—and which, after floundering along for a few years, showed itself, year by year, sinking deeper into debt. Finally, we understand that it has not yet been able to print its Report and Balance-sheet for 1891. At any rate, we have frequently applied, during the last year, and have even sent money, for this production, but have failed to obtain it—although it is characteristic that our remittance has not been returned. On the other hand, we might cite the great success achieved by the Royal British Nurses' Association, which has conspicuously ignored the existence of professional philanthropists and their attempts at interference. A still more recent example of the progress of a professional movement, solely controlled by professional people, is the manner in which the British Nursing Section of the Chicago Exhibition has been organised. The result has been that an eminent success has been attained with absolute harmony and kindly co-operation amongst the leading Hospitals of the United Kingdom. This was naturally too good to last, and, with respect to the Nursing Congress, it would appear that attempts are once more being made to cause dissension and discord, and the resources of Billingsgate are again being utilized. We are glad to observe that this is being treated with the contemptuous silence which is its best rebuke, and we trust that it will not in any way affect the complete success of the Congress. News from America leads us to make one remark with regard to Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT, whose opposition to the Registration of Nurses has been so virulent. If our American sisters are not aware of the estimation in which this gentleman is held in professional circles here; if they fail to understand the significance of the fact that his name is conspicuous by its absence from every Committee appointed by the Royal Commission of this country for the purposes of the Chicago Exhibition; and if they give him the opportunity of posing as a professional man at their Nursing Congress, we venture to prophecy that those who are present on such an occasion, will be considerably enlightened, and perhaps edified, before that particular meeting adjourns.

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