

discredit we have knowledge of certain facts. In January last, a Hospital Matron wrote to us, giving certain particulars with regard to a Miss GERTRUDE JOHNSTONE, who had decamped from Teignmouth Infirmary, leaving the Committee considerably in debt. In our issue for February 8th, we warned all Hospital authorities against this Miss JOHNSTONE, and, at the same time, we looked her up in the British Nurses' Association list, and there the name appeared. A fortnight ago, further information with regard to Miss JOHNSTONE reached us, and we went to Guy's Hospital, with which she said she was connected, but where we found she was utterly unknown. Then curiosity and that happy phrase about the *élite* tempted us to call at the British Nurses' Association office, and try and find out whether they had any idea where Miss JOHNSTONE was trained (if ever!), or whether they simply never inquired into the references given by would-be members. Ignorance reigned supreme at the British Nurses' Association office; the clerk, who was the only person forthcoming, knew nothing. Then a letter to the Secretary elicited the fact that Miss GERTRUDE JOHNSTONE *was* among the eight hundred *élite* who had applied for registration, and the Secretary requested further information about her. But we do not consider it our duty to make inquiries for the B.N.A. If they cannot even discover such a noted case as this Miss JOHNSTONE'S, which appeared both in the local and the London Press, we really cannot undertake their work for them; we do not grudge them their *élite*, nor do we wish a single name struck off their Register."

It was immediately pointed out to Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT that the Miss GERTRUDE JOHNSTONE, who was a Member of the Association, and who had thus been so wrongfully maligned, was a totally different person from the Nurse to whom his remarks referred, and who was not, and had never been, connected with the Association. It is, perhaps, needless to add that Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT neither apologised for, nor even retracted, the wanton attack made by his paper upon a defenceless woman.

THE MODERN DELILAH.

Of old it was Delilah shearing Samson of strength, but we have changed all that, and to-day it is poor Delilah, also named Figgins, who has been done to death by the Philistines under Samson's auspices. At the inquest, Ephraim Figgins, of 9, Southall Place, Long Lane, stated that the deceased was his daughter. She had been employed at a Jam factory only nine days, when she began to complain at night of feeling faint. She told witness that her work consisted of opening oranges, a good many of which were rotten and putrid. On several occasions she scratched her hands while opening packages. *She also complained that the girls were not allowed to go out to dinner, but were obliged to have their meals in their workroom, which smelled strongly of the bad fruit* (the italics are ours). A swelling appeared on her right leg on the Friday before Palm Sunday, and witness took her to Guy's Hospital, where they put her thigh and leg in splints. On the following day, witness called in another doctor, and he ordered the splints to be removed at once, which was done. Witness took the girl to the Hospital again on the Monday, and the surgeon wanted to replace the splints, but the mother would not allow it, and the girl was then admitted to the Ward.—The Coroner: Do you complain that your daughter did not receive proper treatment at the Hospital?—Witness: No; I attribute my child's death to her inhalation of the corrupted fluid from the rotten oranges, and to the fact of her being compelled to have her dinner in the workroom where all the foul fruit was lying about." It is no wonder that the Coroner's jury added a rider to their verdict of accidental death, that they considered the work-girls should have their meals in another part of the building as it was not a right and proper thing from a humane point of view for them to have their meals among the oranges in the workroom. But is there not an action for libel against a valiant champion of working girls in process, on behalf of this same Factory? There was a short time ago, because the writer received an urgent request to join the committee for enabling this lady to be properly defended, and had very regretfully to decline, on the score of impecuniosity, and a near visit to sunnier climes. Anyhow there have been many complaints from time to time of girls carrying heavy loads of boiling jam in metal receptacles up shaky stairs and unsound ladders at this place; and whatever the callousness of managers or employers may be, as to the future of their "hands," there ought to be no apathy or hesitation on the part of public opinion as to the folly and cruelty of allowing such Samsonic feats on the part of the poor modern Delilah, who is a woman, and may be, and sometimes actually is, a mother.

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