

character of two ladies formerly known to us. It will be noticed that the Nurses in question have been lost sight of for from 9 to 12 years:—

“St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.,
June 10th, 1892.

DEAR SIR,
In reply to your inquiries about Nurse S——, I am able to inform you that she was in our Training School from May, 1892, to June, 1883, after which she went to the County Hospital, Lincoln, to take up some appointment there, since which time we have had no further tidings of her.—I remain, yours truly, M. HERBERT—for the Matron.”

“June 10th, 1892.

Miss HERBERT (in the absence of the Matron) begs to inform Mrs.—— that ELLEN R. S—— was a Nurse in this Training School from January, 1879, to May, 1880, when, on completing her year of probation, she went to the Lincoln County Hospital as Assistant Nurse. Her present address is unknown.”

This latter statement does not altogether surprise us, as, to our personal knowledge, this Nurse died some ten years ago! But it is a fact of which, it is quite plain, the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital were not aware.

Now, be it observed that these are the very best replies which we received from any Institution; but what is the value of such information as the above to anyone desirous, in a sudden emergency, of discovering the character of the Nurse to whom the comfort and the safety of some near and dear one was confided?

It is deplorable that the opponents of the Association should have been driven, by their lack of arguments, to make such an utterly inaccurate and misleading statement to Her Majesty's Privy Council.

THE PRICE OF A SEALSKIN JACKET.

THE Behring Sea difficulty between Canada and the United States is centred in the seal trade. The question is; do the seals belong to the United States or do they belong to Canada, or may anyone go and first catch his seal before skinning it. Arbitration is to settle the knotty point; but, in the meantime, it may be as well to remind the female readers of the NURSING RECORD that a dark shadow hangs over the fascinating and beautiful sealskin jacket, a shadow of unutterable cruelty which ought to be cleared away. There is a belief founded or unfounded on fact, that the sealskin can only preserve its gloss and softness by being torn off the seal while its body is still warm. Of course the blow given to the poor animal is supposed to stun it to death. But there is painful and uncontrovertible evidence to the

fact, that in the hands of rough and brutal men, whose only thought is to take care of themselves and get the skin, such a method is not safe, and that as often as not it is from a living and sentient animal the skin is stripped. Not to be the means of giving a single unnecessary pain to one of God's creatures is a slowly dawning light rising over the twilight kingdom of ethics; and although it is always more or less of a mistake to press a reform to its furthest point at starting, we ought in our transition from ignoring animal rights to recognising them as not far different from human, to feel that we are on safe ground when we deny ourselves pleasure or gratification on the score that the indulgence is causing torture and cruelty. Food we must have, and flesh-meat is at present a very important and indispensable part of our diet, and there is no need whatever for physical torture in the killing of animals for food. But sealskin jackets we can do without, and while our protests are mere mouth denunciations, the trade will go on uninfluenced to change its cruel practices. If, however, we could get the public sufficiently alive to the horrible cruelty with which seal-skin is procured, law might then be invoked to interfere and prevent the perpetration of horrors that cannot be adequately described. A considerable falling off in the demand for seal jackets, with an authenticated memorial from women against the cruelty of the seal-hunting, would bring about better and more humane methods, the rigid enforcement of a close time, the protection of these curious animals, and the wearing of the skin in future untainted by wrong.

NOT WANTED.

WHAT a terrible tragedy is that recorded in the *Daily News*, of a Russian husband and wife; and who will prate about the triumph of civilization when officialism has no other resources for poverty and crippledom, but to bid them “move on.” Here is the story in its painful brevity:—“A poor Russian husband and wife had settled at Great Dombrowka, in Upper Silesia. About two years ago they received an order to quit the territory, but on arriving at the Russian frontier they were not permitted to enter, ‘for’ said the Russian official, ‘the woman is blind, and Russia is not in want of such cripples.’ The couple returned to Great Dombrowka, but lately received another notice to leave. The Russian officials were still obdurate, and, sick at heart, without work or home, the husband grew desperate. When the wretched couple came to the Przemska, the stream which separates Russia from Germany, he caught his blind wife up and threw her into the river. He then went to a tree and hanged himself.” To be sure rooks and some other birds get rid of their sick in a swift and heartless manner, and the Spartans and Greeks destroyed their weak and sickly children. Also some of the Indian and Scandinavian races have expedited the death of the aged. But true civilization being nothing more nor less than the triumph of the moral over the animal nature—the spiritual over the material—the outrage done to the best feelings, and highest ideals of humanity, by acts of heartlessness and brutality, is a far greater disaster to advance, and hindrance of progress, than can be in anywise atoned for by material gain. The tragedy of Przemska is an object lesson for English Materialists.

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