

sent a woman to the Bengoe College as a thoroughly trained Nurse; presumably, charging the customary fees for such a skilled attendant; that the Sisterhood, therefore, took the legal responsibility of directly guaranteeing to the employer that this woman was what they represented her to be; that, with the most gross negligence and carelessness, this woman poisoned her patient; that the Superior has been twice challenged in the leading paper in the Empire, to state precisely what Hospital training this woman has had to fit her for the serious responsibilities of her calling; and that the head of the Institution, which guaranteed the Nurse's efficiency, and which sent her out to the public for the pecuniary profit of the Sisterhood, has shirked the question, and withheld the information. The matter is far too grave to be allowed to be burked in this manner. If the *Times* permits the question to be quietly ignored, it is, in our opinion, the public duty of the Principal of Bengoe College, Mr. HERBERT BOWDEN-SMITH, as the employer of the Nurse, to demand the information, even by means of legal process, and, having obtained it, to make it public.

We know nothing of this Sisterhood or its system, and, therefore, it may, possibly, only send out Nurses who have had the three years' Hospital training, which the House of Lords' Select Committee considered to be essential before a woman should be described, and sent out to the public, as a thoroughly trained Nurse. But it is notorious that the London—the largest Hospital in the Kingdom—sends out its Probationers—women whom it has promised to train for the low standard of two years in its wards under supervision—as “thoroughly trained Nurses” long before it has ventured to certificate them as efficient; that it only pays these women some eight shillings a week; but, that it charges the deluded public from a guinea and a half to two guineas a week for their services, and that last year it cleared a profit of more than £1,700 from these proceedings. And what is done in the green tree is improved upon in the dry. All over

the country it is well known that there are smaller Institutions which send out women who know nothing—some who are even without characters—cheerfully guaranteeing them as competent, and, doubtless, arguing that on the doctrine of averages, they are quite safe in so doing—that the chances are that “nothing will happen.” Who can say how narrow the chance is, in hundreds of cases every year; or what discomfort, not to say danger, is caused to the sick by attendants who have no accurate knowledge of Nursing duties; or how nearly a catastrophe and an inquest is avoided by the fortunate discovery of the attendant's ignorance, or of some careless mistake? All Nurses have heard of such cases.

But, in our judgment, when such a terrible tragedy, as the one now in question, does drag to light the hidden dangers of the system, it is the bounden duty of all concerned to take measures to prevent the possibility of its recurrence, by arousing the public to demand the necessary measures for the protection of the sick. To demand, for example, that no Institution shall send out, for its profit, a woman as a thoroughly trained Nurse, who has not passed through the necessary three years' of Hospital training and experience. We ask Mr. HERBERT BOWDEN SMITH, as we shall, in future, ask the employer of the Nurse in every similar case, to perform his bounden duty to the public, by discovering and stating whether he entrusted the life of his pupil to a Nurse qualified by her education to give the lad the best possible care and attention. On the other hand, we consider that it is a duty which the Superior of this Sisterhood owes, both to the public and to her Institution, to make it perfectly clear that the Nurses she sends out have been thoroughly trained, by giving in full detail the names of the Training School or Hospitals at which Nurse Barnard was educated for her very responsible duties, and the dates of her training. There can surely be no reason why this information should be withheld, and for the sake of everyone concerned we hope that it will be immediately given.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)