

rapidly cooling hip-bath, neglected and alone, in a room with an open door so that its naked body was exposed to a further chilling influence; and it was admitted that the Matron had given specific instructions that children are not to be left when they are being bathed.

It is heartrending that such a tragedy should have occurred, but if it should awaken the authorities at last to the grave faults in the Nursing department, this poor baby's death may be productive of the greatest benefit to the Nurses and patients in the future. So far as the writer is concerned, the matter is referred to, now, as a striking justification of the attitude assumed by this journal on the London Hospital question.

Without fear or favour, with words strong, and expressions terse, during the existence of the NURSING RECORD, while the writer has directed its policy, the management of this Institution has been criticised frequently and in stringent terms, and he is confident, from documentary and other evidence in his possession, that, sooner or later, there will arise a scandal—which cannot be hushed up—which will arouse so much public indignation that the necessary reforms will perforce, *volens volens*, have to be made, and which will prove that in its efforts in this direction the NURSING RECORD has acted as the only true friend of Hospitals generally, and of the London Hospital in particular. There is too much reason to fear that the policy (adopted by other journals) of striving to conceal and hush up the scandals which have already occurred, has resulted in creating a loss of confidence on the part of the public in Hospitals generally, which will, for years, cripple their resources, and which may, at no distant date, be the means of converting the majority of them into rate-supported Institutions.

With still more confidence can the writer look back upon the steadfast policy of this journal in respect to the Royal British Nurses' Association. Convinced from the first that that body would develop into *the* controlling force—and a greatly needed one—in the Nursing world; that its aims were praiseworthy, its workers earnest, determined, and sincere, through good and chiefly bad report the NURSING RECORD has, to its own cost and, probably, somewhat to its temporary hindrance, supported the Association. By fighting its battles, with language measured only by the openly expressed bitterness of its

adversaries, and by the necessity of the occasion; by private knowledge, such as journalists acquire, on several occasions, we have, by vigorous onslaughts on persons or institutions—which to many may have appeared unnecessary and, indeed, inexpedient—had the satisfaction of frustrating several proposed attacks, and of preventing the publication of pamphlets and other literature which would have done the Association very serious harm. This has not been mentioned in these columns before, because we have never sought for praise for doing what we conceived to be our duty, and is only referred to now, in these words of parting, because it always happens that in new hands the policy of a journal has a tendency to become modified. But it is a source of much pleasure to the writer, who has laboured hard and not altogether in vain, to know that the NURSING RECORD will continue in the capable hands of Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, to whom the Editorship is being entrusted, as staunchly as before, to support the Royal British Nurses' Association in its most excellent work, and to strive, in its own sphere, to forward the best and general interests of Nurses. He can look back upon the five and a half years from the date upon which he founded the NURSING RECORD, and during which time he has guided it, with sincere satisfaction, that he has done at least something to help on the development of the Nursing profession; that he has received much kindness and invaluable assistance from a large circle of readers, and, above all, that of the many statements, however serious, of the many criticisms however stringent, made in these pages, and for which he has taken full liability, never having shirked the responsibility of his actions or statements, not one criticism has, during the whole of those years, ever been refuted, or even seriously questioned. With every good wish for the future and continued success of the NURSING RECORD, for the welfare of its readers and of the Nursing Profession, the writer's editorial charge of this journal is, with respectful solicitude and sympathy towards those whose interests it has ever been his desire to "promote," brought to a close, as other demands are being made upon, and other paths, probably broader and smoother, marked out for, him.

CHARLES F. RIDEAL.

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