

would be unable to pay more than their yearly subscriptions, and a reduced or nominal fee for the services of a Nurse.

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The scheme of the Association is to begin gradually, by planting out Nurses in small numbers where the need seems greatest, under the direction and control of existing organizations, such as Nursing Sisterhoods and Hospitals, already administered by competent matrons and medical men. By this system it will not be necessary to wait for the accumulation of a large capital, and subscribers can feel certain that their money will at once be applied to the object for which it is given. Later on, as funds increase, the Association hopes to depend, where necessary, on its own independent machinery. Details of administration will necessarily vary in different districts, and will be worked out by local committees of residents in India.

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Wards would be available for Europeans in several native Hospitals up country if Nurses were obtainable. There are also huge tracts of country, over the length and breadth of which Englishmen and their families are scattered, who can never command a trained Nurse at their need, unless some organization places one within a reasonable distance, at a reasonable cost.

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THAT rank weed, Nursing quackery, seems to be growing apace in the States, and the editor of the *Trained Nurse* pertinently asks the question, "Whose duty?" in her last issue, alluding to Miss LEILA V. JONES' letter, entitled "Pro Bono Publico," which discusses at length the iniquitous system of "A Correspondence School of Health and Hygiene," professing to train Nurses.

"In a letter published elsewhere Miss Jones takes up the question of these quack Nursing schools and adds much to the argument. We have had much to say, we shall have more, but in the midst of it all we do not want the principal sufferers—the patients—to be forgotten.

We believe the majority of doctors want their patients to have the best possible Nursing skill. Personal feeling does not touch professional life. And yet there will be doctors who will take these "eight weeks correspondence Nurses" and place distressed and helpless human beings at their mercy. They are not indifferent. They are simply thoughtless.

The average doctor outside the large cities is a night and day worker. He feels the pressure of his practice. He can't take time to consider and investigate qualifications or abilities. If a male-order Nurse slips into a case he may be excused on the ground that nothing has been done by the Nursing schools or the State to prevent it.

But the Superintendent of every training school knows all about it, knows that the profession they are building up is being torn down, and they cannot excuse themselves for denying to the profession the protection it has earned. We insist that it should be a matter of conscience with every

school, not only to its graduates, but to the sick and the helpless, to throw around its Nurses this protection.

Whoever is not ashamed of this fact that the profession can be invaded by quackery under any garb, THE TRAINED NURSE is. The thing is disgraceful both to our intelligence and moral honesty. But if it be disgraceful to us, it is most of all disgraceful to the boards of managers of our Hospitals who for want of some united effort let the condition exist. For just as the medical profession charges itself with the health of the people and repels by serious penalty any invasion of its ranks by the uninitiated, so should the managers of our Hospitals, the superintendents of our schools charge themselves with the guiding and guarding of those who, by years of study, have earned the right to membership in a most honourable calling."

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WE heartily second Miss SUMNER in her appeal to the Superintendents of American Nurse-training schools; it is their duty to initiate a scheme which will encourage and protect the certificated graduates of the institutions over which they preside, from that modern octopus the "quack Nurse."

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AT the late meeting of the Hertford Board of Guardians, the Rev W. MILLS mentioned the case of a girl named PURCELL, whose parents reside at Bennington. He said the girl had been away in service in the Brentford Union district, and was taken ill with erysipelas. Her mistress sent her off to the Workhouse at Isleworth, and paid the relieving officer the sum of 17s. wages due to her. After remaining in the Workhouse for some time, she was sent home in a disgraceful state. Her head was covered with filth and was a mass of sores. She had had to have all her hair cut off, and it would be some months before she could go out to service again. Her father had no means to keep her at home, and now had to apply to the Board for relief. He (the speaker) had written to the Master of the Isleworth Workhouse, and asked him if it was possible the girl could have been sent out in such a state, and the reply he had received was as follows:—

Brentford Union, The Workhouse, Isleworth, W.

November 16th, 1893.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—On receipt of your letter, I immediately made enquiries respecting the young woman Ruth Purcell, and I am sorry I am not in a position to refute the charges made against us. I admitted the girl myself, and as she was suffering with erysipelas of the head, the cab was driven straight to the sick wards, and she was placed under the care of the nurse and the medical officer. We have a large infirmary, about 170, not a resident medical officer, he only attends once a day. We have three Nurses and also a Night Nurse, but it so happens that the Nurse who had charge of Purcell left on the 3rd inst., Purcell at that time being practically well. Our new Nurse did not come in until Monday last, the 13th inst. In the meantime, we had to fall back on the assistance of the Nurse from the other building, where she has the care of 70 patients, and who admits that finding Purcell up and about the ward, she did not examine her head, having no suspicion that anything was

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