

erroneous deductions from anonymous correspondents, as the well managed training schools are ranked with those which are badly managed. When will women who have justifiable cause of complaint have the pluck to stand to their guns and expose real abuses without implicating the Hospitals which are really well managed, and thus alienating public sympathy from all, good and bad? Fearless public criticism has entirely metamorphosed the conditions under which the Nurses work at the London Hospital, although the hours of work there are still too long, and in spite of official assertion that no changes were necessary. St. Bartholomew's and King's College Hospitals have relieved their Nursing staffs of all duties which are not necessary for the efficient training of a Nurse, as have numbers of our excellent country Hospitals. The truth is, Nursing the sick, when efficiently done, is the most laborious, exacting, and exhausting work a woman can undertake, and the pity of it is that so many fragile girls enter our Hospitals for training, who have neither the physical strength nor mental vigour to perform the necessary duties; of this you cannot convince them or their friends, and the Institution must accept the blame of many failures.

Women as a sex are lazy—I wince to own it, but they hate drudgery—and the result of drudgery is efficiency, success, content, and as a class we Nurses are very discontented. It is the lack of the power of concentration which is the true secret of our failure to do really great things."

We do not like to publish one line in our journal which is depreciatory of our sex. In spite of many bitter disappointments, we still retain absolute faith, both in the power of women to attain to and accomplish "great things," and yet our correspondent writes truth, and in doing so writes wisely, when she recommends to women concentration of purpose. Nothing worth having is ever effected without it, nothing at least which has any living power.

THE Social Democratic Federation and the Independent Labour Party of Coventry have taken very public-spirited action with regard to the decision of the Guardians not to appoint a properly qualified night Nurse for the Infirmary.

At a meeting of the Board a few days since, a letter was received from the Social Democrats stating that "at a large meeting held under the auspices of the Coventry branch of the Social

Democratic Federation, a resolution was unanimously carried condemning the action taken by those Guardians who voted against the appointment of a qualified night Nurse."

When this letter was read it was almost as if a bomb had been thrown into the Board Room. Indignant protests were heard from the Guardians opposed to modern methods of Nursing. One Guardian suggested that an answer should be sent to the Federation advising them "to mind their own business." Another Guardian characterised the Federation as "a nineteenth century Inquisition." Other members of the Board thought that the ratepayers had a perfect right to meet and send a resolution to any public body who represented them, and that considering the citizens had put them on the Board, they had a perfect right to criticise the actions of those they elected.

Discussions and arguments ensued, and expressions as to "democratic despotism" were freely used. Finally it was decided that the Board should simply acknowledge the letter without any comment.

Just as the Board had smoothed its ruffled feathers, and feeling had subsided under the influence of action which appeared to the Guardians to save their dignity, another bomb came in the shape of a communication on the same subject from another spirited Association, known as the Coventry Independent Labour Society. The envelope looked sufficiently peaceable and unaggressive, but the contents, which ran as follows, were very much to the point: "At a meeting at the Priory Assembly Rooms it was resolved 'that this Coventry branch of the Independent Labour Party cordially supports the action of Miss Hurlston, Mr. Stevens and the other members of the Coventry Board of Guardians, who are endeavouring to secure a qualified night Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary, and hopes that their opponents may be able in time to subdue their commercial instincts sufficiently to recognise that the alleviation of suffering and poverty is of higher importance than mere shillings and pence.'" There were calls for "next business" please, and the letter was passed over without comment.

But we doubt if these two Societies will allow themselves to be so shelved. They are strictly within their rights as citizens in asking that the money with which they support their Infirmary shall be well spent. And the expression of

DURING the International Congress of Hygiene at Buda-Pesth a comparison between the Æsculap Bitter Water and all other aperient waters was invited. The Æsculap Spring is owned and supervised by Englishmen, and it is gratifying to learn that its water was found to be the best put up of all the Hungarian natural waters exhibited at Buda-Pesth. The efficacy of the Æsculap water is widely recognised by the profession, and it is important to know that when bottled it is the clearest and purest of all Hungarian natural waters.—*The Hospital*. Of all Chemists.

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