

in the question, and I turned to see what answer he would make. He looked very grave and said that "whiting might in some cases be applied to burns." Just then my friend took me off, and I lost his opinion as to whether it should be put on wet or dry. I was not sorry to go, however, for he seemed to be distressed at the occurrence.

Now, that young lady was a fair specimen of the "sham Nurse lecturer;" she had no doubt taken careful notes at the lectures she attended, and come out of her examinations well. She looked a smart quick girl, but of course when brought face to face with a class of her own to teach, and questioned as to any *practical* part of the work, she was necessarily at a loss what to say. No amount of cramming and coaching could prepare a lecturer for the questions that are asked by a large class of persons of average intelligence. They are not necessarily deep or clever questions, but they relate to the actual difficulties they have themselves encountered. And these embarrassing questions have puzzled the lecture-trained lecturer so much, that they discourage questions or evade them altogether. And it is just as well, for they would only further mislead the unhappy inquirers who trust to them.

When we consider the increasingly large number of County Councils that are engaging these sham Nurses to teach the poor and ignorant, matters so vital as nursing the sick, it appears to me that the Royal British Nurses' Association ought to put themselves in communication with the Organising Secretaries' Association, and to represent the evil that at present prevails.

The Royal British Nurses' Association was promoted, in a measure, to prevent the public from being nursed by sham Nurses; it seems to me to be an extension of its duty to prevent the "teaching of sick Nursing" from falling into incompetent and discreditable hands, as it unquestionably seems to be doing at present.

Yours faithfully,

A COUNTY COUNCIL LECTURER.

#### THE MACCLESFIELD INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—You will no doubt have seen the *Macclesfield Courier* of last Friday, October 18th, as I have done, and read the leader in which the Governors of the Infirmary "congratulate themselves on the greatly improved condition of things." No doubt the length of the meetings is improved on; also, there is not so much opposition to everything, or petty bickerings indulged in; and that is wise, considering that the Governors' meetings are now open to the press, and the editor of the *Courier* being a governor can command the report of the proceedings in his paper.

But what strikes me very forcibly about this leader in the *Macclesfield Courier* is the way in which the editor tries to answer the comments made in the *NURSING RECORD* of October 12th, on the Nursing system carried out at the Macclesfield Infirmary. As an incriminated Governor he cannot bring an open mind to bear on the subject. We all know the French proverb "*qui s'excuse, s'accuse*," and he has injured himself and his party by not letting well alone, for the comments in the *NURSING RECORD* were very just, very much to the point, and, as every one of unprejudiced mind could see, were written for the good of the Macclesfield Infirmary, its patients, and its Nurses, as I have so often seen things written in your paper in a similar strain for the good of other institutions which were tottering to their fall through bad management and bad systems. And kindly words of comment and advice in your paper and from your pen have helped to re-establish them on a firm and sound footing.

I am glad to see that the Editor of the *Macclesfield Courier* says in this same leader that "Happily the writer" (that is, the commentator in the *NURSING RECORD* on the Macclesfield Infirmary affairs) "is powerless to do the Infirmary the slightest harm in the minds of thoughtful and intelligent

people," for, evidently, the "thoughtful and intelligent people" are taking the remarks made in the *NURSING RECORD* in the spirit in which they were written, which was for the good of the Macclesfield Infirmary, and not for its hurt! It is pleasing, therefore, to you, I feel sure, to see that some good is already arising from the timely, kindly, and unbiassed comments which have been made in the pages of the *NURSING RECORD* these few weeks past.

But allow me to sympathise with you in the arduous and uphill work you have set yourself to do in trying to advise that a reformation should be arrived at in the Nursing system of the Macclesfield Infirmary, when you have such Governors to deal with as those, whose only weapon of defence and justification is abuse, and that of the most vulgar type; but all the Governors of the Infirmary cannot be of such a stamp, and therefore there is hope.

I am, Madam,

Yours, &c.,

"A SYMPATHISER."

Oct. 21st, 1895.

[We have expressed our opinion upon the system of Nursing in the Macclesfield Infirmary, and have reason to believe that the publicity given to the subject will, in the near future, prove of benefit to the Institution. We hope at an early date to report that the Committee, after due consideration, have decided to raise the efficiency of the Nursing of the sick, and, in consequence, the tone of the Hospital by inaugurating a higher standard of training for their probationers. Should this privilege not be ours, we feel that we shall be called upon to refer again to the management of the Macclesfield Infirmary.—ED.]

#### ST. KILDA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was interested to read an annotation in last week's *RECORD* on the subject of tetanus among the newly-born children of St. Kilda. The article winds up by saying "Dressing the cord at once with iodoform powder and antiseptic wool, keeping the child clean and feeding it properly, were found to completely prevent the occurrence of tetanus, and, in consequence, the infant death-rate, it is stated, has been greatly reduced."

I feel sure that the readers of the *RECORD* will share my pleasure that the desirable end of reducing the terrible mortality among St. Kilda infants has been accomplished by the introduction to the island of, I think, two trained Nurses. It was felt that so long as the babies were left to the care of "neighbourly nursing," no possible diminution of the death-rate could take place. And, indeed, the superstitious belief of the people that tetanus was a Heaven-sent scourge on the island, prevented them from taking the most ordinary hygienic precautions. So somebody—with Heaven-sent inspiration, surely—suggested trained Nurses; and for these the infants of St. Kilda should surely be devoutly thankful. That some contributory causes *do* exist in St. Kilda—although no explanation has been given or theory advanced—there can be little question, because we know perfectly well in many districts neglect of the "cord" and absolute disregard of hygiene and proper feeding are not followed by the inevitable tetanus, as appears to have been the case in St. Kilda. It would be interesting if some of the readers of the *RECORD* could throw any light on the subject. There are probably old traditions and superstitions on the subject, which, if not valuable from a medico-nursing point of view, would be infinitely interesting.

In writing my first letter to the *RECORD* I would like to take the opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to you for the vast amount of interesting matter you provide your readers with. It seems to me—and I speak now with the reserve common to the canny Scot—that each number is better than the last. Sincerely yours,

A WEST HIGHLAND NURSE.

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