

On the conclusion of the six weeks' regimen, $\frac{1}{50}$ gr. of strychnia was given three times daily, and the patient began to sit up for ten minutes night and morning. After thus sitting up, with an increase of five minutes each time, for about ten days, the patient was instructed to walk a few yards twice daily, on crutches. A pair of new crutches, in which the patient expressed much interest, were procured, and she used to walk up and down her room for a few times daily. At first she was quite pleased, but soon became listless and apathetic, and needed much encouragement to induce her to make the effort.

To give her another stimulus she was invited to come down and take a cup of tea with the Matron in her sitting-room. This pleased her, and she displayed quite a little pleasure in "dressing up" for the occasion, although she complained somewhat of not being allowed to wear corsets.

After being up and about for nearly three weeks, she still complained of "having no feeling in her legs." To test this rhigoline was applied, but no sensitiveness showed itself. "Needle stabs" were next used, but neither these nor the rhigoline produced any apparent sensation. Neurasthenia was thus complete, and the prognosis was somewhat gloomy.

She was induced to go out of the hospital on bright days, walking a hundred yards at first, still on crutches. At first it was a great trial to her to use the crutches, as she fancied "everyone was looking at her," but after a short time she became used to it, cried less, and again was apathetic. There was absolutely no reason apparent why she could not walk without crutches—and in fact the "crutch prescription" was given only for its moral effect, and in the hope that it would rouse her spirit and ambition to walk without artificial aid. And, indeed, we were able to induce her, before she returned home, to walk about her room and to go downstairs without the crutches. But when she returned home, after being in the Home some ten weeks, she was very solicitous about "taking my crutches with me," and although she had been relieved somewhat, had gained more moral fibre and more self-control, she went home to resume her listless "sofa-life," and probably to remain in her invalided condition for the rest of her life.

The case was diagnosed as "hysteria," arising partly from want of hygienic surroundings, from living in a neurotic, excited centre, going into society, late hours, living and sleeping in over-heated rooms. All these acting on a sympathetic, emotional nature, had caused the balance of her health to be overturned, and centred self-control to be absolutely a lost power.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



FROM a casual glance at the advertisement sheets of the current issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, we regret to notice that the journal, instead of being self-supporting as it formerly was, is evidently printed at a considerable loss, and is thus a financial burden instead of a support to the Association. Here is a department in which a drastic reform of management is needed, and which we hope to see speedily effected. It is useless making constant appeals for funds to the members, unless we are permitted to conduct our affairs upon business principles.

We also observe that the Editor dislikes our criticisms concerning the unprofessional and unpractical tone of an article which appeared in the August number, entitled "Local Centres." We are now informed in a highy-tighty paragraph that the article in question was written by a "professional journalist," a fact which we learnt some time ago from the writer herself—a lady for whom we have a sincere personal regard. This fact, however, does not alter our opinion in any way. What the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association claim, and what they must enforce, is that their official organ shall reflect the opinions of "professional Nurses," not those of "professional journalists." And we are glad to notice that the organisation of Local Centres is so far being entrusted to the leading Matrons in the districts, where it is proposed that they should be formed, instead of to well-meaning persons who know nothing of our professional needs. On a professional basis Local Centres may prove to be of value to members of the Association; on any other basis they are bound to fail.

That the present Editor of the *Nurses' Journal* objects to our plain statement of facts is quite apparent, and we regret to observe that neither explanation nor apology have been made to the members for the very misleading statement, concerning the business conducted at the Annual Meeting, to the report of which we drew attention after the issue of the August number of the *Nurses' Journal*. It is important that the members should be told why and by whose authority there has now been suppressed from the report of the last General Council Meeting various important statements and facts which were then made and elicited; and also why the manifesto, read by Dr. Bezly Thorne at the same meeting, has been withheld from the knowledge of the members of the Association, together with the stringent remarks made by the Chairman thereon. We feel sure that the majority of members would have been sincerely edified by its perusal. Either the proceedings of the General Council Meeting should be truthfully reported, or they should not be reported at all; and to claim that these reports are "official" is therefore most misleading.

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