

behalf of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, we must request you to publish this letter in the next issue of your paper.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
(Signed) MEAR & FOWLER.

2. Old Sergeant's Inn,
Chancery Lane, W.C.
October 31st, 1896."

After some eight years' experience of Mr. H. C. Burdett's journalistic tactics, we are not surprised that he should assert that the one-sided account which he printed, suppressing the material facts alluded to above, was "fully and fairly reported."

Beatty v. Cullingworth.

THE trial of this action, which was commenced last August, was continued and concluded before Mr. Justice Hawkins, on Monday and Tuesday last. It will be remembered that the plaintiff is a trained Nurse, and the defendant is Dr. Cullingworth, Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital. Miss Beatty claimed damages on the ground that the defendant had removed both her ovaries against her will, and that she had, in consequence, been prevented from being married. Dr. Cullingworth stated that he had received the plaintiff's consent to the operation, and that the operation was absolutely necessary to save her life. Sir Spencer Wells and Dr. Bedford Fenwick were called to give evidence on behalf of the plaintiff, and agreed that, according to the notes of the case taken by Dr. Cullingworth, the right ovary was so diseased that its removal was advisable, but that the condition of the left ovary, which before the operation Dr. Cullingworth had considered to be healthy, was not such as to necessitate its removal; and that if it had become more seriously diseased it would have been feasible and safe to have removed it at any future time by a second operation; but that, without the consent of the patient, such a serious operation should certainly never be performed. They concurred in stating that Dr. Cullingworth was a most able specialist and skilful operator. On behalf of the defendant—who gave evidence that he was aware the plaintiff seriously objected to both ovaries being removed, but that he understood that she had consented to leave the matter entirely to his own discretion—Mr. Bidwell, Dr. Herman, Dr. Galabin, and Mr. Tait gave evidence to the effect that the procedure adopted by Dr. Cullingworth was, from a surgical point of view, correct and skilful; but they made statements as to the relations which should exist in operation cases between surgeon and patient, and as to their own custom in operating, which appear to us to be so novel and so serious that we will not quote them from the condensed—and possibly inaccurate—report published in our contemporaries. At the termination of the evidence, the jury intimated that they had made up their minds. Counsel on both sides, therefore, waived their right to make further addresses, and, the Judge having briefly summed up, the jury found a verdict for the defendant. The case raises, of course, points of the greatest importance to the public and the medical profession, and while we cannot but regard it as unfortunate that the

plaintiff should have been a Nurse, it is beyond dispute that she had an absolute right to refuse to allow any part of her body to be removed by operation, whether it were diseased or not. This point appears to have been much overlooked both by the Judge and jury; and we fear that the decision is one which may arouse a very considerable amount of distrust in the minds of the public concerning the large powers and absolute discretion which have hitherto been wisely accorded to medical men.



Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

Pages from an ENGLISHWOMAN'S DIARY.

(Continued from page 195.)

[AFTER leaving the Tuscan Hospital, I obtained a year's training in an English Hospital, with the view of acquiring sufficient knowledge to enable me to teach some of the *finesses* of Nursing to Italians. With some difficulty, permission was then procured for me to attempt the training of a few Italian women of the educated classes in the medical clinical wards in Rome, circumstances, during my absence, having rendered return to the Tuscan Hospital impossible.—E. V.]

Rome, November 4th, 1895.

It is strange to be back in Rome, and with other objects than that of seeing things and people. Now I have only one idea—or two comprised in one—how to find the right young women to become Nurses, and how to teach them when found.

Professor R. told Donna Maria that his clinic was to open to-morrow, the 5th. I must get some sort of foothold there myself before venturing to take "pupils," so I have merely written to tell him I have arrived, and await his orders. Meanwhile, I must begin to look out for girls: I have leave to take two at a time, and the Directress of the great professional school, patronised by the Queen, is supposed to be the best person to apply to for suitable candidates. Everyone says there will be great difficulty in finding them—it is such a new idea that an educated woman should nurse—only nuns have done so hitherto. But this Signora P— has already provided the great surgical chief with Nurses; he has had "Signorine" instead of nuns to nurse in his clinic for four or five years, training them himself. One hears very different accounts: some say they are nice and clever, others that they are good girls, but ignorant; some that they *laissent à désirer* in both respects, wanting the rudiments of a good Nurse, talking to patients in collapse, useless and awkward in lifting and assisting helpless patients,

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