

which are engaged in such work. There would, it is found, be comparatively little financial difficulty in starting and carrying on a Medical Insurance Company which would give sick pay and other advantages to those who subscribed to the Medical Club of any District Committee. The experience of similar concerns proves that, properly managed, such a scheme would be most remunerative. But it could only be prudently initiated if a sufficient number of District Committees were already formed, each of which would prove that the members of their Medical Club desired, and would avail themselves of, such advantages. This insurance system, therefore, should, for the present, be regarded only as a probable development of the Provident scheme."

Should it develop, why should not trained Nurses be allowed to subscribe for its benefits? and, from numbers of letters which we have from time to time received, we feel sure many would gladly avail themselves of such a society if founded on a purely business basis.

"Blotted Out."

THE accusation has often been brought against women that they are proverbially treacherous to one another. All dependents are more or less cowardly—it is the result of lack of personal responsibility.

In women who work for their bread we look for, and usually find, a higher standard of personal responsibility, produced by independence and self-respect. We were the more disappointed, therefore, to notice in this month's *Nursing Notes*, the official organ of the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association and of the Midwives' Institute, which is edited by Mrs. Nichols and Miss Brierley, an anonymous attack upon two members of the Royal British Nurses' Association—alluding to these ladies in the most opprobrious terms with regard to legal actions which they have thought fit to take. As the case of the former of these ladies was *sub judice*, the attack constituted contempt of Court, and we have been requested to insert the following correspondence. In the case of the latter—as the lady had been amply justified by a judge and jury (a fact which the editors of *Nursing Notes* suppressed in criticising her action)—the attack was probably beneath contempt. We have been sent a copy of *Nursing Notes* in which the paragraphs in question are blocked out in black ink, an almost unprecedented journalistic humiliation, which we must confess appears to us to have been deserved.

40, Chancery Lane, W.C.
November 4th, 1896.

MADAM,—Our attention has been drawn to a libellous paragraph on our client, Miss Beatty, appearing on page 153 of *Nursing Notes* for this month. This paragraph having relation to the part-heard case of *Beatty v. Cullingworth* is an undoubted contempt of Court, and our client will be guided by the advice of counsel as to what steps, if any, she shall take on that account.

We write now to point out to you that the passage in question is defamatory and injurious to our client,

and that she is entitled to bring an action for damages. Before advising her to take this course we give you an opportunity of stopping the further sale of the issue in question, and of publishing a suitable apology. If you are inclined to take this course, please send us a draft of the apology for approval. If, on the other hand, you decline to comply with our letter, perhaps you will be good enough to refer us to your solicitors who will accept service.

We are, Madam,

Your obedient servants,

RADFORD & FRANKLAND.

Editor *Nursing Notes*,

12, Buckingham Street, Strand.

12, Buckingham Street, Strand.

November, 1896.

The Editors of *Nursing Notes* beg to acknowledge Messrs. Radford and Frankland's letter of 4th inst. addressed to them, and to express regret that the paragraph complained of should have been inadvertently inserted in their paper. They beg to tender their apology to Messrs. Radford and Frankland's client, Miss Beatty, for having inserted the paragraph in question, and she is at perfect liberty to publish this letter if she sees fit. In the next number of their paper the Editors propose to insert both Messrs. Radford and Frankland's letter and this reply without comment, and they undertake to send a marked copy of the issue containing the apology to all subscribers to the paper. The Editors trust that this course will meet with Miss Beatty's approval, and on hearing that such is the case they will give immediate directions to block out the paragraph in question from any further copies of the paper which they may sell. The Editors are also prepared to pay Messrs. Radford and Frankland's costs in this matter not exceeding two guineas.

We are also requested to state that, upon the request of Miss Alice J. Beatty, the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association have directed that the number of *Nursing Notes* containing the attack upon her shall not be permitted to remain in the Nurses' Club-room at the offices of the Association.

Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

Pages from an ENGLISHWOMAN'S DIARY.

(Continued from page 424.)

WE first entered the male ward: very wide and immensely lofty; thirty beds. Frescoes round the tops of the walls, nice in colour, but too high for one to judge of details, windows let in between, also quite high up. There was no smell, or heat (though the weather is phenomenally hot). One wonders if the old-fashioned lines of Hospital building are altogether wrong for Italy. The modern *padiglione*, small, with windows opening down to the ground, are fearfully hot in the summer, and appallingly airless and smelly in the winter, when heated by *caloriferi*, and with insufficient use of ventilators.

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