

information concerning the effects produced by their remedies; and as to the symptoms which arise during their absence from the bedside of their patients, shall be qualified by most careful training and experience to fulfil those duties and to afford that assistance with the utmost possible efficiency.

In brief, then, it may be said that the wide technical training now given in the leading nurse-training schools has gradually been developed to meet the increasing demands made upon nurses by medical men and the public, and that therefore the extent of their education must inevitably tend to grow as medical knowledge increases. There are a few medical men who are not aware of this fact, and they express the views of Lady Priestley's friend. Several have said to me in similar strain that they 'got on very well without nurses formerly.' So did typhoid fever. In 1863 a case was admitted into a convent. Fifty-six nuns were struck down within three months. Even at the present day there are gentlemen who 'object to new-fangled notions,' and who are prepared to adopt the rôle of Dame Partington and attempt to stem the irresistible 'advance of our times' in nursing, as in all other directions, by ridiculous little brooms. They stand in ignoble contrast with the position assumed by scientists of such superlative worth as the late Sir William Savory, who, at a Mansion House meeting held some five years ago, voiced the opinions of men like himself as follows:

The subject comes home to every man, woman, and child, for all may suffer from disease and injury. Nursing is not only the oldest of all occupations, for it must have existed ever since the creation of women, but in none has there been more signal progress within recent times. The great change which has taken place in nursing might be aptly described as a revolution. Formerly the charge of nursing devolved upon anyone; now it is everywhere recognised that not only are the qualities with which all good women are endowed necessary—such as tenderness, faithfulness, and devotion to duty—but skill and knowledge also, which can be gained only by a term of practical instruction and training. Nursing has attained to the grade of skilled labour. It is understood that no amount of goodwill or willingness can compensate for ignorance; and though it is sometimes objected that our nurses know too much, those who urge this objection are usually those who know too little.

There is good reason to believe that the public are becoming quite aware of this aspect of the case; that they realise that a doctor who is skilled in his profession, and who is desirous that his patients should recover speedily, will wish that his instructions should be carried out most correctly. In other words, he will in all dangerous cases obtain, if possible, the services of a well-trained nurse.

On the other hand, if there be any medical

men who 'know too little' of modern methods of treatment, and who therefore have no definite instructions for the patient's care to entrust to the nurse, it would be comprehensible, and not altogether unnatural, that they should denounce her education as 'unnecessary' and regard her presence in the sick room as a perpetual reminder of their own shortcomings."

Legal Matters.

BREAY *v.* BROWNE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The unfortunate lack of justice in the conduct of the so-called official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association has now become proverbial, therefore, although I regret, I am by no means surprised to observe that in the current issue of the *Nurses' Journal* the case of Breay *v.* Browne has been dealt with from one point of view only, and that is in support of the Vice-Chairman, Sir James Crichton-Browne, and not of the nurse member of the 'Royal British Nurses' Association. I shall therefore be indebted to you if you will accord me space in the *NURSING RECORD*, which I may add is the only professional paper where we members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are sure of a fair hearing, to place some facts before your readers.

It will be remembered that the resolution of which I had given notice I should move at the annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association in July last, was ruled out of order by the Chairman, Sir James Crichton-Browne, on the ground that I had not sent it by a registered letter, and this in spite of my at once producing the official receipt for its registration. The legal action which I subsequently took in the City of London Court, and in which the Jury found, without leaving the box, an unanimous verdict for me, the plaintiff—that in withholding my resolution from the meeting, the defendant, Sir James Crichton-Browne, had acted maliciously, or from an indirect motive—is conclusive evidence that I proved my statement that the letter was registered, and that therefore my resolution was in order. As, however, the Editorial Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association have entirely suppressed my side of the case, and published in our Journal only the judgment given upon appeal in the High Court of Justice in favour of the Vice-Chairman, Sir James Crichton Browne; and as it is being widely circulated that I did not forward my resolution in a registered letter, I am sending you photographs both of the certificate for the letter which I registered, and also of the receipt signed by Miss E. G. E. Guiseppi, the Acting Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, for the letter when she received it.

It will be observed, upon examining the first receipt, that I hold the official receipt for a registered postal packet directed to the Secretary, British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, stamped at the Western District office, June 30th. Plate No. 2 shows the receipt in the possession of the Post Office, on which it will be observed that "Regd." (registered), which appears in red ink in the original, is written across the top, that I am credited with having paid

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