

those of long standing paralysis, delirium tremens, and dipsomania, undoubtedly necessitate the care of male attendants, yet upon the whole there will never be a very large opening for men in this capacity, inasmuch as it is to women that men, and women, instinctively turn when "pain and anguish wring the brow." Men cannot be constantly engaged in attendance upon the sick without stifling those qualities which we are accustomed to regard as manly, and an effeminate man is an abomination second only in magnitude to a manly woman.

#### A POLICY OF INSULT.

THE public has at last begun to grasp the fact that the policy which at present prevails in the councils of the Royal British Nurses' Association, is one which aims at the complete subjection of the very people for whom, and by whom, the Association was founded, and this being so, it may be hoped that the British sense of justice and fair play, will be finally triumphant, and that the members of the Association will again enjoy the privileges to which they are entitled under the Royal Charter. The methods which have been employed to wrest from the nurse-members of the Association their rightful share in its management are now matters of history, but they may with advantage be briefly recapitulated for the benefit of those who have not closely followed the matter, or who did not realise the gravity and significance of the attack at its outset. In 1895 the founders of the Association who were *ex officio* members of the General Council were removed from this, by methods of a type with which we are now familiar. Many members came up from the country to the annual meeting that year to protest against this injustice, but were puzzled and surprised by the silence of their leaders, a silence which was afterwards explained, and which does not reflect credit upon those who secured it, and afterwards repudiated the promises by which alone they had gained it. The founders being removed from the General Council, the principles laid down by them were next betrayed, and the Association which, from its inception, had held as a fundamental principle that legal registration was the end which it most desired, was represented at a public conference as supporting the principle that legal registration is "injurious in principle." The founders of the Association having been insulted and removed from its governing

body, the Corporation as a whole having been insulted by the repudiation of one of its fundamental principles, yet another attempt was made to destroy the very *raison d'être* of the Association. The honorary officers made a determined effort to admit to membership of the Association (a privilege at present only open to *trained* nurses), lunatic attendants who had received no training in the wards of a general hospital, and it was openly stated that it was hoped that the registration fees of these untrained persons would afford material pecuniary aid to the Association, briefly that it would relieve it of the monetary difficulties into which it had been plunged by the official mismanagement. The effect of this ill-advised action would of course be to depreciate the value of Registration, and render the prestige at present conferred by Registration by the Association worthless to trained nurses. This grave danger was only temporarily averted by the publicity given to it at a public meeting, and even now threatens the Association, while the present attempt of the officials to alter the Bye-laws is viewed with the very gravest distrust by the members for whose interests they have shown an utter disregard. We trust that before any new Bye-laws become law, the public inquiry into the conduct of the officials, which is now being widely demanded, will take place. That the whole trend of the Bye-laws drawn up in sub-committee by the hon. officers *alone*, is to deprive the nurses of rights they at present legally enjoy—to minimise the power of the matrons by depriving them of their *ex officio* seats on the Executive, and to remove those members who have strenuously opposed the policy of depreciation of nursing as a profession—is an open secret. We therefore trust that all earnest members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will help in defeating a policy which can only be termed despicable.

#### Hiccoughs and their Treatment.\*

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IN view of the serious cases of hiccoughs reported from time to time, I am led to give the history of the following case and also the treatment employed, in the hope that it may be of benefit to others.

A. M.—, female, fourteen years of age,

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