

We can scarcely imagine that the medical gentlemen, varying from a Licentiate to Fellows of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, of whom it is stated that the Editorial Committee is for the most part composed, would deliberately play a stupid practical joke upon the nursing profession. We are, therefore, driven to the conclusion that it was *ignorance* on the part of the Editorial Committee which led them to make the announcement—in point of fact, that they inserted it believing it to be true. They really did not know that Miss H. Gordon is the Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, and likely to remain so! Could anything that we could have said, or done, have proved more conclusively our contention that it is absolutely futile to attempt to manage a Nurses' Association, and, we may add, a Nurses' Journal, without the co-operation of representative nurses? We commend to the consideration of the Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal* the suggestion that for the sake of their own reputation as editors, setting aside that of justice to nurses, it would be well that the nursing element in the Committee should be very considerably increased before they issue the next quarterly—or is it to be monthly?—magazine. We may add, by the way, that we have been waiting nearly a year for the weekly journal which we were promised by Sir James Crichton Browne, in which all our own errors were to be exposed and rectified. Perhaps the recent eccentricities of the Editorial Committee will point to them the advisability of acting upon the proverb, "Physician, heal thyself," and of deferring the issue of this weekly journal even longer. Meanwhile, we will return good for evil, and reveal to our eccentric contemporary an open secret in the nursing world, that, according to the latest information received, neither the Matronship of St. Bartholomew's nor that of St. Thomas's is vacant at present.

#### THE LANCET SPEAKS ON NURSING MATTERS.

THE *Lancet*, in commenting upon the recent orders issued by the Local Government Board with regard to nursing in workhouse infirmaries, and reminding its readers that it is just half a century since any orders, or regulations, have been issued by the Poor Law Commissioners, or the Local Government Board, relating to the duties of a nurse, goes

on to say: "Many things have happened since then. Nursing itself has developed into a profession, and the training that is necessary now is always of a very special kind. It is no longer left to Sairey Gamp, but is a calling that exacts the devotion of a lifetime of educated and high-minded women." The *Lancet* so rarely expresses an opinion upon nursing matters that it is with great pleasure that we give the above quotation. The concluding sentence of the article perhaps furnishes the reason why it has departed in this instance from its usual rule. "It is naturally a question in which we take great interest, seeing that the founder of the *Lancet* initiated the great reform of 1847." Perhaps we may be allowed to suggest to our esteemed contemporary, for its consideration, that if at the present time it saw its way to giving its valuable support to bring about another great reform which is now being widely demanded,—namely, the legal registration of trained nurses—this fact would in the future redound to its credit, in the same way as the initiation of the great reform of 1847 was an additional laurel in the wreath of its illustrious founder.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

A RECENT issue of the *Walthamstow Guardian* contains an article which points to the urgent necessity for an isolation hospital being provided with all speed for Walthamstow and the neighbourhood. It instances a case in which four children, two of whom are now dead, were down with diphtheria in a small house, where the parents were neither able to properly isolate them or to provide efficient nursing; and there is apparently no accommodation or provision for infectious cases which may occur in the district. It is to be hoped that this condition of things may be rectified speedily. Diphtheria of all diseases needs prompt treatment and skilful nursing, if life is to be saved; and further, if infectious cases, such as diphtheria and scarlet fever, are not isolated, there is a strong likelihood of their becoming epidemic, in which case public censure would undoubtedly be the due of those authorities who had neglected to provide the necessary accommodation.

Walthamstow is not alone in remissness in this respect, for we heard not, long ago, that in the large city of Nottingham the only place where a case of diphtheria could be admitted was the Children's Hospital.

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