

and work, and they have determined—whether wisely or not, we will not venture to say—to retain the whole control and management of the organization in the hands of nurses. They have, therefore, made no provision for medical members of the American Association of Nurses, a fact the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated. And as we must accept the responsibility of having given medical men a great share in the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, we shall watch this different system with keen interest. At the same time, it is a humiliating reflection that our American sisters point to the present scandals in the nursing world as an absolute proof of the necessity of retaining the management of their affairs entirely in their own hands. That such a step should be taken and such an explanation be possible, is a more eloquent proof of the international discredit which the present officials of the British Nurses' Association have brought upon themselves than any words of ours could convey.

But the fact upon which we desire to-day to comment is the important news, which we published in our American letter last week, that the University of Texas has formed a Nursing Department, and has recognized the head of the Nurse Training School as one of the Professors of the University with a Chair of Clinical Nursing. The lady in question is in future to teach, not only the pupil-nurses, but all the medical students at the University Hospital, in the details of nursing. She has to give both lectures and bedside instruction, and there can be no doubt that the new departure will be of the greatest importance to the Medical Department as well as to the Nurses.

We have pointed out in these columns how hampered medical students at the present day are, in learning the practical details of nursing of patients in their Hospitals. Formerly, every student learnt, for example, by experience the best methods of giving enemata, baths, and carrying out many other practical details which to-day are done by the nursing staff. Formerly, the clinical clerks invariably took and recorded the temperatures, pulses, and respirations of their patients. These details and many others are now carried out systematically by the nursing staff. The consequences are that while many medical students now leave their hospital much more highly trained in scientific details than their predecessors were ten years ago, they are often less acquainted with many practical nursing

matters; and it is, therefore, more difficult for them to properly supervise the nurses to whom they entrust such duties for their patients. Considering how dependent nurses are, and always must be, upon medical directions, we cannot but consider that the defect in medical education at the present day, to which we have alluded, is much to be regretted. At any rate, this defect has been recognized and met in the University of Texas, and we earnestly hope that medical schools in this country will take the facts in question, and the object lesson in America, into their earnest consideration.

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### Annotations.

#### HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN!

THE ninth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography is to be held in Madrid from April 10th to April 17th, 1898, as well as an International Exhibition. The Congress is under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen Regent of Spain on behalf of King Alfonso XIII., and is under the protection of the Government. Many interesting subjects will be discussed, and it may be anticipated that there will be a large and representative attendance. It is noticeable, however, that no reference to nursing organization or nursing matters is included in the proposed programme of the Congress. It will be remembered that, at the last International Congress on the same subjects, held at Budapest in September, 1894, H.R.H. Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, contributed a paper upon the "Progress of Nursing in the British Isles," which, in the words of the Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal*, was remarkable as being "an articulate public expression of the aspirations of the Corporation for the establishment of a State-recognized Register of Trained Nurses, based on an independent and similarly recognized examination." The paragraph by Her Royal Highness referred to in these words, runs as follows: "It is the hope of the Corporation that the time is not far distant when the State will see the importance of recognizing a definite diploma of nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses." These words then formed part of the paper read on behalf of Her Royal Highness by Dr. Bezly Thorne, then the medical honorary secretary of the Royal

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