

We have frequently been compelled to complain that Sir Henry Burdett has interfered in Nursing matters without the slightest justification, and that he has assumed an attitude therein of high authority and dictatorship. It is evidently a characteristic attitude, because a leading financial contemporary congratulates the Committee of the Stock Exchange upon their wise decision to appoint in future an official who shall be a "servant" and not "a would-be dictator." We have gravely advised Sir Henry Burdett that he would be wiser to attend to his own business, and leave the affairs of nurses to those who are entitled by experience and position to deal with such matters. He did not take our advice, and now the financial press sharply criticise the manner in which Sir Henry Burdett has devoted himself to affairs outside the duties which he was paid to perform; and, not unnaturally, our contemporaries presume that he made this outside work more or less profitable to himself, while they evidently consider that the fact amply justifies the Committee of the Stock Exchange in its decision on the pension question.

Neglecting all other points, therefore, it is easy to realize the immense significance of the step which has been taken by the Trustees and Managers of the Stock Exchange—gentlemen celebrated for their great generosity and liberality to their servants—in refusing to grant any pension at all to an officer who has served them for seventeen years. Without, at the present moment, questioning the alleged reasons which have caused Sir Henry Burdett's retirement, and this definite and most significantly curt dismissal of his claim to a pension, the moral which we would draw is the very palpable truth that Sir Henry Burdett made a most serious mistake in neglecting to follow our advice that he should attend to his own business and leave other people to attend to theirs. If he had done so, it is possible that he would now have been in a very different position. He might, for example, have been in receipt of a very comfortable pension; if, indeed, he were not, which is even more probable, still in office at the Stock Exchange and with unimpaired health. The moral is still applicable, and even now we would advise him to resign his connection with all Nursing movements and to cease henceforth from interference in such matters. He is undertaking duties in connection with various financial schemes, which our information leads

us to believe will require very considerable attention and most careful administration. If he continues to neglect our advice, we deeply regret to feel that he will do so at the risk of "a very serious mental collapse"—if we may quote the opinion of "his chief medical adviser."

But we would also point the moral to the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who—we, of course, know—have founded considerable expectations upon Sir Henry Burdett's supposed influence in the financial world. The writing on the wall is already plain enough for most people to be able to decipher; and it foreshadows the injury which, in this keen age of competition, inevitably befalls those who meddle and mismanage other people's affairs, while they necessarily neglect their own business for the purpose.

Annotations.

QUID PRO QUO.

AT a public dinner in aid of the London Hospital, Mr. Sydney Holland, the Chairman, said the hospital was at the present time in a very serious condition. They required £70,000 a year to keep it going, of which only £20,000 was obtained from subscriptions and donations. In the last two years they had had to sell £30,000 of their investments to meet their deficit, but of course, that sort of thing could not go on for ever. They were to receive from the Prince of Wales's Fund £5000 a year, which would render it possible for them to sell £100,000 of their investments, and with the proceeds make certain necessary improvements to the hospital. He did not want the hospitals to be supported out of rates, but he certainly thought that the Government should contribute towards the expense incurred by them in training medical men. In conclusion, he said that unless the work of the London Hospital was to be curtailed they must have at least an additional £10,000 a year.

The London Hospital is the finest field for clinical experience, both for medical students and nurses, in the Kingdom, and we are of opinion that with such educational advantages at their command the Committee of the London Hospital will have difficulty in persuading the Government to pay for free education for students and nurses. We have long advocated a collegiate system of education in our Nursing Schools. In these days it is preposterous for parents to expect to get

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