

demand a public inquiry. Their present attitude is entirely devoid of dignity, of courage, and even of common sense; because an increasing number of persons are steadfastly determined that their conduct shall be publicly inquired into, and the more they struggle to evade that investigation, the more certainly will they be condemned by public opinion.

#### "THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NURSING.

*"To the Editors of the 'Lancet.'*

"SIRS,—In justice to the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, I must ask your permission to make a short reply to the letter which appeared in your columns on Feb. 5th over the signature of G. B. Hudson. I learn from his letter that he is a Member of Parliament—a fact which, if I may quote his own words, 'is quite unknown to the general public.'

"Your readers doubtless wondered what was the object of his communication to your columns. I would venture to cast a little light upon the obscurity by expressing my humble opinion that Mr. Hudson would be acting more wisely if he persuaded certain members of the staff of the Middlesex Hospital to meet at once the demand which has been publicly made and reiterated during the last six months for a public inquiry into their mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a body which he goes out of his way to eulogize.

"In your Editorial note to this letter, you, Sirs, state that the views of the leaders of the Medical Practitioners' Association 'must be received with caution.' Those views have been clearly set forth on many occasions in print, and are as follows:—That nurses should be properly trained for the responsible duties they are required to fulfil; that they must work under the direction and control of medical men, and not as independent practitioners; that at present nurses and midwives are, to a large extent, untrained, and are almost entirely uncontrolled; and that this state of affairs is dangerous to the public and most detrimental to medical practitioners. I much regret to find that you consider that these 'views must be received with caution.'

"I am proud to know that the Association of which I have the honour to be President is slowly but surely arousing the medical profession to the great truths that in self help and union are to be found the best, the most manly, and therefore the most certain, remedies for the many difficulties and drawbacks from which medical men suffer. The Association has never yet claimed to speak for the 'whole of the profession.' I cannot, therefore, consider it generous upon your part to deny our right to a claim which we have never made. At the same time I may assert with some confidence that recent events have proved that the Association—even at this early stage of its career—possesses the support and the confidence, and expresses the views, of a very considerable section of the profession.

"I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

"HUGH WOODS,

"President of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association.

"Highgate, N., Feb. 8th, 1898."

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA  
A Guarantee of Purity.

## Legal Matters.

### ILL-TREATING A CRIPPLE.

MARY BAKER, late head nurse at the High Wycombe Workhouse, was recently summoned at Wycombe Borough Petty Sessions, at the instance of the Board of Guardians, for assaulting and beating a patient named Emma Belson. It was stated in the evidence, that on the night of January 21st the nurse ill-treated this blind, deaf, and crippled patient in a way which caused her to scream and cry "murder." It was also stated that the nurse had ill-treated other patients. Nurse Baker denied the charge, but the Bench held that the assault had been committed and that it was aggravated by the helpless condition of the patient. A fine of £3, and £1 16s. 6d. costs was imposed, or, as an alternative, one month's imprisonment. It would be interesting to know what appointment Nurse Baker will next hold.

### MONEY OBTAINED UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

In the Southern Police Court, Dublin, Kate Bewley, *alias* Maclean, was recently brought up on remand by Detective-sergeant Brien, and was charged with having obtained, and also with having attempted to obtain, money under false pretences.

The evidence was as follows:—The Rev. James Lamont, of the Methodist Church, Stephen's Green, stated that Kate Bewley had called upon him. She said that she was a member of his congregation and that she was in trouble about her sister who was in a difficulty about her rent. She said she was a nurse at the Adelaide Hospital, and *wore the uniform of the hospital*. She asked him for half-sovereign, which he gave her.

The registrar of the Adelaide Hospital, Mr. Frank Kempster, deposed that the accused had never been a nurse there.

The Rev. Joseph Bewley, curate of Grange-gorman Protestant Church, gave evidence that on January 8th, Kate Bewley called upon him. She was dressed as a nurse at the time, and said that she was a nurse at the Rotunda Hospital and attended his church. She asked for a loan of £1 10s., stating that her sister was going to the Richmond Hospital as a probationer, and had not money to pay for her uniform. He declined to lend the prisoner money, saying that he did not know her.

Mrs. Mary Casey, of the Rotunda Hospital, stated that Kate Bewley had never been a nurse in that institution.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the Commission.

It is a well known fact that nursing uniforms are used to cover a multitude of sins, and it is, we think, quite time that the fraudulent adoption of a uniform, which the wearer is not entitled to wear, should be a punishable offence.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)