

member of it is appointed in defiance of the expressed disapproval of the head of the staff. Either the committee can have no confidence in their matron, in which case it was, without doubt, their duty to ask for her resignation, or, having confidence in her, she should certainly be desired to recommend candidates for subordinate positions in her department, and her advice should be acted upon so long as she holds the position of matron. It is preposterous to suppose that the nursing department of a hospital will work smoothly on any other lines. The appointment of a nurse in whom the matron has not confidence, is a direct intimation to the nursing staff by the committee that the confidence of that body in the matron is at a discount, and that discontented and insubordinate members of the nursing staff may appeal directly over her head to the committee. The result of such proceedings could only be disorganization, and conditions under which no self-respecting matron could hold office. It is not surprising, therefore, that under the circumstances the matron of the Llanelly Hospital resigned. It is noteworthy that the nursing staff resigned also, and that the matron and nurses are supported in their action by the medical staff. We understand that the matron has been requested to withdraw her resignation, but does not see her way to do so. We hope that the Committee of the Llanelly Hospital will learn wisdom, and will treat Miss Barwick's successor with the consideration which is due to her position.

#### CO-OPERATION REQUIRED.

PRIVATE Nursing matters in Leicester might be much more happy than they are if there was more co-operation amongst the nurses. In the past, there was but one private nursing institution in the town, and this was carried on—on the old-fashioned lines—under a committee, who employed the nurses and paid them a stated salary. A desire, however, upon the part of certain nurses to work on the co-operative system produced another institution, at which the nurses take their own earnings, and now a third society has started. Leicester is not London, and we fear from all accounts that the competition between the three societies is not proving altogether advantageous to the interests of the nurses. By some mediation the three societies should become one and thus save initial expense, and

should be organized on the lines of the Registered Nurses' Society—whereby the honorary officials and the secretary are professional persons—and have thus the expert knowledge to manage the affairs of the co-operation to the best advantage of the members and the patients. A limited number of nurse members should be annually elected on to the Committee of Management, and thus made to value their responsibility in a professional sense. Are there no liberal minded women in Leicester who will move in the matter—and associate private nurses in Leicester into a united sister band?

#### A CAUSE.

Is there anything more inspiring than a Cause in which we heartily believe? If so we do not know it. Neither is there anything more satisfactory. This or that plan may fail us, people may be disappointing, weak, ungrateful, untrustworthy, but the Cause remains. Of that there can be no question. As it was when we first adopted it as ours, so it is to-day, only like all things for which we work, strive, and suffer, infinitely more worth as time goes on. For whatever befall we are on the right side. Is it victory? We rejoice. Is it defeat? This brings out our best, for the resources of a good general are shown not in victory but in defeat. Are we outnumbered and our Cause apparently a failing one? We set our teeth, put our backs to the wall, and fight on. And above the din of the conflict we hear ever a voice, increasing with intensity as the battle waxes hotter, telling us that the strife, the pain, and the trouble are worth while, for our Cause is a just one, and this being so, ultimate success is as sure as if it were already in our grasp. As the master poet has it—

"All we have willed or hoped or dreamed of good shall exist;  
Not its semblance, but itself."

Therefore we say those who have a Cause are the happiest of people, and their lot one which they would be unwise to exchange for any other, apparently perhaps more prosperous, but lacking the inspiration and enthusiasm which permeate those who are working for a Cause in which they have implicit faith.

#### THE VALUE OF PROTESTS.

WE published last week the protest sent in to the Privy Council by the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, against the new Bye-Laws of the Royal British Nurses'

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