

suspicion, we need hardly say, is calculated to reflect the greatest discredit upon the whole nursing profession, and it therefore behoves every nurse, who respects herself and her calling, to steadfastly set her face against the practice, and not only to refuse to accept such bribes, but to show her conscientious objections to any such proposal.

With reference to the second custom to which we have alluded, it is sufficient to say, that there are few, if any, nurses who are thoroughly trained, who could or would act in the capacity of commercial travellers. If they are successful in their own profession, they would not be able to follow such a trade; and, as a matter of fact, it may safely be assumed that those who act as commercial agents, dressed in nursing uniform, are, almost without exception, women who have failed to obtain success as nurses, or who have not been trained at all. This is so well known that these bag-women are generally looked down upon as masqueraders in borrowed plumes; and there is little doubt that one chief result of their endeavours, is to throw a certain amount of disparagement upon the firms which send out such representatives.

We are led to make these remarks at this moment, because, during the past week, the medical profession has shown how it treats medical men who adopt such an unprofessional position. The Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association brought a registered practitioner before the General Medical Council on the charge that he acted as consulting physician and medical adviser to a notorious quack, known as "Professor Munyon," whose remedies are so largely advertised in the daily press. The Association, through its President, Dr. Hugh Woods, who conducted the case with marked ability, proved that the practitioner in question was paid a salary in order to attend at Munyon's offices and peruse the letters received from the gullible public. On each letter, he wrote the name of the organ from some disease of which he imagined that the writer was suffering; and the letter was then handed on to some one—but whether this was an office boy or a porter, the practitioner in question could not tell. Whoever got the letter, however, prescribed and sent medicine to the patient, on the practitioner's guess as to the organ which was diseased! Neither the doctor nor anybody else apparently knew anything of the compositions of the medicines thus sent out, although

flaming advertisements are issued every day as to their marvellous curative properties. The General Medical Council, after hearing both sides, adjudged the practitioner to have been guilty of conduct infamous in a professional respect, and struck his name off the Register, practically, therefore, drumming him out of the medical profession. We commend these facts to those pseudo-nurses who puff quack medicines; and earnestly hope that in the future, when our profession is properly organized, and under efficient discipline, the proceedings to which we have frequently alluded will be rendered impossible.

Annotations.

COBBLER, STICK TO THY LAST!

THE manner in which the arrangements made in connection with the nursing staffs of hospitals are criticized in students' journals, does not appear to us to be conducive to good discipline, and is certainly wanting in good taste. Take, for example, the comments in the *St. George's Hospital Gazette*, just issued, upon recent changes in the nursing department at St. George's Hospital. Several of the ward sisters at this hospital have resigned, and "general surprise and no little heart burning" have been caused by the fact that the vacant posts have been filled by sisters from other hospitals. Says the *Gazette*: "We have Supernumerary Sisters trained at our own hospital, any of whom, in our humble opinion, are quite competent to take charge of a ward." Perhaps—but with all due deference to the editor of the *St. George's Hospital Gazette*, we receive his opinion as to the suitability of candidates for the posts of ward sisters with about the same amount of respect as he would accord to ours, if we laid down the law as to what gentlemen were suitable for vacant house-surgeonships. If the Matron of a Hospital does not know who is, and who is not, suitable for promotion, then she is surely unsuited for her responsible position. We are all of us apt to think our own training school the best in the world, but there are occasions when the importation of fresh blood is an advantage.

Again the *London Hospital Gazette* this month contains four columns of eulogistic platitudes concerning former members of the London Hospital nursing staff, and depreciatory comments upon the arrangements of certain hospitals before they were so fortunate as to

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