

illness. He then relates what occurred during the illness of a personal friend of his own who was suffering from concussion, accompanied by loss of consciousness and delirium. "Professional nursing was ordered, and two ladies of the mentally and physically lunatic asylum kind (presumably asylum attendants) were supplied." The writer of the article went one night to enquire after his friend, and found him raving, and the nurse sitting by his bedside "taking shorthand notes of every word he uttered." The nurse owned that she was a "lady novelist," and that she was obtaining copy for a new plot, and burst into tears when her manuscript was consigned to the flames. She further stated that this custom of note taking—in our opinion a most gross breach of confidence—was a common one with herself and her colleagues. "Most of us do it," she said, "when people's brains are astray." On the remark being made to her that not one educated woman in a hundred could write shorthand as well as she evidently did, she replied that that was so; and "isn't it better to have correct notes, instead of the bad and mistaken ones which other nurses take." We do not know what may be the custom amongst asylum attendants, but we cannot believe that qualified nurses would so abuse the trust reposed in them, as to be guilty of such conduct. The sooner some code of professional ethics is drawn up and enforced, for nurses, the better.

#### A CLOAK FOR CRIME.

We print in another column a report of the conviction of a negro, who kept a house of ill-fame at 120, Marylebone-road. The case concerns the Nursing profession, because this house was professedly a "massage establishment," and the servants in the establishment, who were first ruined by the man, James Davis, were afterwards "turned into nurses, and provided with appropriate uniforms." We should like first of all to comment on the inadequacy of the sentence passed by the magistrate at the Marylebone Police Court on this man. Six months' hard labour for assaulting a woman with whom he lived, and three months' hard labour for living upon the immoral gains of the women he had ruined. If there is a case in which the cat would have been well applied it is surely the one under consideration. We desire next to point out the disgrace which is brought upon the Nursing profession by the adoption of a nursing uniform by women of the above type. A police inspector gave evidence that he had seen a

woman "dressed as a nurse in a showy white and pink dress, covered with lace and frills, at the first floor front window, evidently with the object of attracting gentlemen." It is small wonder that trained nurses are discarding their uniforms when it is adopted by the most degraded women, and although we are of opinion that their action in so doing is short sighted and unwise, and that they should seek to protect, rather than discard, the symbol of their profession, yet we cannot be altogether surprised at the adoption of this line by those who have not well considered the matter.

In the next place, we wish to express our opinion that it is nothing short of a scandal that the use to which many so-called "massage" houses are put has not been dealt with severely by any public body. The well known abuses which exist in connection with these houses have for some time been an open sore, and we think that the medical papers, before one or more of which we know full information has been laid, would have been performing their public duty if they had dealt with this matter. But the medical press has been conspicuous by its silence. Another body which might have dealt with the question, in the interests of trained nurses, is the Royal British Nurses Association, which was formed, amongst other reasons, to associate nurses "for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of their professional work." No doubt if the leading Matrons had still the prominent position in the counsels of the Association, which they originally held, efficient action would have been taken, but now that they have been insulted out of the Association, and the Governing Body is composed largely of half-trained and irresponsible persons, and since the repudiation of the original principles of the Association by Mr. Fardon and the Hon. Officers there is no ground for hope that the Association will take action in this matter. We, therefore, hope that trained nurses will take this matter into their own hands, and that every reader of the NURSING RECORD will send a marked copy of this report to the Member of Parliament for the District in which she resides, and point out to him the need of legislation for the protection of trained nurses, as a matter of justice to those members of our profession who are seeking to purify and elevate their vocation, and of protection to the sick public from the undesirable characters who at present prey upon it with impunity in the guise of nurses.

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