

Annotations.

MOST MISLEADING.

WE notice that the Royal British Nurses' Association is still "registering" nurses, though, without consulting the members, it has abolished the Register; and its chief official has publicly declared his belief "that a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit."

We have no hesitation in saying, therefore, that the Association is misleading both nurses and the public. Having no Register, and discrediting the principles of Registration, it yet takes guineas from nurses on the pretext of "registering" them. It, in fact, trades on the belief entertained by professional women that they acquire, by "registration" through the Association, a very definite status for which privilege they are willing to pay a guinea. Nurses' guineas are not too plentiful, and they would scarcely part with them unless they expected to obtain a corresponding benefit. It is sheer deception to hold out to nurses the hope that placing their names on the Members' Roll of the Royal British Nurses Association, with medical men, will confer any sort of professional prestige on them. So long as the publication was a voluntary Register which was formed with the avowed object "of obtaining legal status for nurses," there was a return for the money paid, by admission to this publication. But, as we have pointed out on a previous occasion, the present Executive Committee of the R. B. N. A. have absolutely no right to take one farthing from trained nurses for "registration" under the existing regulations.

DILUTED DERVISH.

A CONTEMPORARY states that the outbreak of enteric fever among the troops at Omdurman was due to their drinking the Nile water, which was contaminated by the bodies of the Dervishes which were thrown into it.

Burial was out of the question, as the number killed was so great; and, fearing an epidemic from the odours arising from their decomposition, orders were given that they should be thrown into the river. We wonder what the late Sir Douglas Galton, a pioneer in sanitary reform, would have said to this action. Surely the training of the Engineers should

teach them the danger of contaminating the one water supply.

It is extraordinary how frequently rivers are regarded as suitable sewers. It is not unknown even in this country for a town to be drained into a river, and for the inhabitants to drink the water of the same river taken from a lower point; but to pile up decomposing corpses in drinking water is to exceed anything yet arrived at, at home. Verily, we have much to learn as yet in sanitary matters.

THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.

THE *Trained Nurse* has devoted some space this month to criticizing our remark, at the Nursing Conference, that, in the nursing appointments made by an exclusively male committee, it is by no means uncommon for a pretty face and a smart figure to be preferred before a more worthy, if less attractive, candidate.

We said this because we were personally acquainted with several cases in which this had actually occurred, but we are able to appreciate our contemporary's assertion that "men are of a dual composition. They have a social and a business side. Socially they may have a decided preference for pretty women, but as a class they do not carry their sentiment into their business. It is only in exceptional cases that the man allows himself to be influenced by personal attractions when he is in the act of criticising the qualifications of a candidate for a hospital or any other appointment. His business end is then uppermost, and he is under the criticism of his colleagues, so that he usually bounds his natural admiration of a good-looking woman by a large admixture of common-sense."

We are not surprised that, in the land of the "almighty dollar," business instinct should come out uppermost, but in this country we think the male sex is more amenable to the influence of good looks. They argue, not unreasonably, that the attractive woman is likely to be a more desirable factor in the institution they control, than the plain one. We of course agree with the *Trained Nurse* that good looks and capacity may go hand in hand, and we by no means believe that because a woman is plain she is necessarily capable. We only contended that male committees were susceptible to the influence of good looks. Is there anyone in this country who will venture to deny it?

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