

"The Art of Cultivating a Winning Personality." Well, those nurses who have attended many meetings of the Royal British Nurses' Association will not be prepared to deny that he may be right. Further, it would surely be a graceful act to invite a member of the profession, which, according to Mr. Gant, excels in this art, to lecture upon it, in which case the announcement might run somewhat as follows:—"Nurse —, M.R.B.N.A., who, from the charm of her manners, is a universal favourite with her patients, and is never without a case, will lecture to the medical profession, on 'The Art of Cultivating a Winning Personality,' at the Medical Society's Rooms. Medical members of the R.B.N.A. free. To others, admission 2s. 6d."

WE have, however, got some distance away from "Blanche." This is the description of her:—"Nurse arrives in attendance on a case. She enters the sick room; an old, feeble-minded husband is lying in bed; an anxious, nervously excitable wife is watching by his side. 'So thankful, nurse, *you* have come; doctor said he would send you; although (aside) *he* assures me there is no danger!' Nurse approaches the bed with an engaging smile, she places her two fingers on the pulse, and withdraws from her waistband a small watch. The old husband looks up at her with a puzzled expression, the wife eyes her attentively. Suddenly nurse's visage drops to zero as she interprets the language of the pulse with almost momentary decision. 'Here we have a bad case.' The old man closes his eyes in hopeless despair as of one doomed to death in the prisoner's box; his wife's face bespeaks the unutterable as she hears nurse's verdict.

BUT no. Nurse yet hopes (D.V.) to "pull the patient through," despite the bad case; and she has shrewdly not pronounced a hopeless prognosis. The patient *does* recover, and certainly, while in nurse's hands, the doctor paying his visits, prescribing and giving directions, which may or may not be fully carried out. Has not nurse fully justified her superior professional claims? and does not her self-assertiveness entitle her to the appellation 'Doctor-Nurse'?"

ARE any of our readers acquainted with a nurse whose "visage drops to zero" when she takes a patient's pulse, or who exclaims, in melodramatic tones, "Here we have a bad case"? We confess we have not met the genus.

OF another "doctor-nurse," we must own Mr. Gant has reason to complain. He says:—"Here is one, whose testimonial of Byrrh, as a tonic

wine, I read in the *Sunday Times*, March 19th, 1899:—

"Nurse Marian Steene, R.B.N.A.,
"Home Villa, 22, North Bank, N.W.

'As an invigorating and restorative tonic, I must say Byrrh is far superior to any wine I have tried, both for "patients" and for myself.' The obvious inference from this testimonial would be that 'Nurse Steene' has patients of her own, under her treatment, as well as doctoring herself, a case in which, probably, by a mistaken professional opinion, she could do no harm to anybody."

WE have more than once expressed our opinion as to the unprofessional conduct of nurses who allow their names to be used in advertisements of medicines. We must own to some curiosity, however, as to a point which Mr. Gant has omitted to mention, namely, his course of procedure when he read the above advertisement, and, rightly, disapproved of it. Did he "communicate his grievance" to the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and so bring it before the "proper authorities," or has he made a complaint in a "public newspaper" without adopting this course? If so, will the Executive Committee call a Special General Meeting to pronounce his action to be "disloyal and unjustifiable," and to record its disapproval of his conduct, and will the President of the College of Physicians move a resolution condemning him, and will the Royal President make a speech expressive of the "disapproval and pain" she feels, and will the Chairman put the resolution to the meeting and refuse to count the votes, and declare it carried by a "large majority"? Those who remember the "Barlow" case will, we think, share our curiosity. Perhaps, though, medical members of the R.B.N.A. may communicate their grievances to the public press without having all the machinery of the Association set in motion against them. We are keenly interested to know.

MEANWHILE, we advise Nurse Marian Steene, who, according to the Roll of Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association for 1899, is working at Dr. Bantock's Nursing Home, 22, North Bank, Grove Road, N.W., to abstain from giving testimonials with regard to "tonic wines." What does Dr. Bantock think of the matter?

No one expects the present officials to uphold the honour of the nursing profession; or they would, six months ago, have summoned this nurse before the Council to explain her flagrant contravention of the Regulations of the Association.

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