

whose interests are in peril while this controversy is raging, must demand for their own protection that where a nurse enters their houses they have the assurance of a legal register, as in the case of the medical profession, that she is duly qualified for the work she undertakes. And it is in this way we believe that nursing reform will be effected. Nurses, as a body, have failed in performing their duty of guarding the interests of the sick, it is for the public now to protect their own.

\* \* \*

In this connection it must be noted that the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded by nurses, for nurses, with the object of obtaining legal registration. This still stands as one of the purposes of the Society, but, nevertheless, the duly accredited delegate of the Association, at a meeting convened by the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, in 1896, voted for a resolution "That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit." Mr. Edward Fardon, the Hon. Medical Secretary, also voted for the same resolution, so that the Association has been deliberately betrayed by its officials.

\* \* \*

AND yet, ignorance, or wilful blindness, on the vital question of Registration of Nurses is still prevalent, and only last week the *Westminster Gazette* announced a scheme to have actors examined and registered "much as nurses are," and adds "There is no particular public necessity for actors being labelled; such, for instance, as exists in the case of nurses." Well—if the necessity exists, perhaps our esteemed contemporary will advocate this necessary and just reform in future. It has, so far, systematically depreciated the efforts of those who have tried to obtain it.

\* \* \*

WE are glad to notice that the formation of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses is noted in the Year Book. This is the first association of the kind in this country, but already we hear of other hospitals considering the formation of similar Leagues.

\* \* \*

A SPECIAL meeting of the supporters of the Torquay Nurses' Institution was held at the Bath Saloons on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of placing the Institution on a more popular and firmer basis. The Mayor, Councillor Beavis, presided. He stated that the income of the Institution had, of late, been precarious. The sum of £400 was required in subscriptions to maintain six nurses at work, the total expenditure being £500. Surely a wealthy town like Torquay

should have no difficulty in subscribing the amount required.

\* \* \*

THE condition of the Warwick Infirmary was discussed at a recent meeting of the Board, serious allegations having been made as that the dead were removed from the upper rooms in a bag, and that the infirmary was infested with vermin. A member of the Board having asserted that Mrs. James exaggerated the condition of the infirmary when she said it was infested with vermin, Mrs. James proceeded to give details, but was interrupted by the Chairman (Alderman Stanton), who said he would not sit there and listen to exaggerated statements, and forthwith he closed the discussion.

\* \* \*

WE would remind Alderman Stanton that his duty as a Chairman is to conduct the business, and that in an impartial and judicial manner. From his conduct in the Chair the public will, no doubt, draw their own conclusions as to the condition of the infirmary. Complaints with regard to this institution have, on former occasions, been made in these columns, and we advise Mrs. James to continue her demand for reform.

\* \* \*

WE have the highest authority for correcting an erroneous statement recently made in reference to the Queen's New Year's Gift of Chocolate to the British soldiers in Africa. As a matter of fact, we know that Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd., Her Majesty's Royal Warrant Holders, are supplying 40,000 tins. No one will be surprised to learn that this well-known and universally respected firm are constantly despatching goods to the seat of war, in addition to contributing liberally for the maintenance of the wives and families of the Army Reservists in their employ.

\* \* \*

THE Orange Training School has raised its standard of training from one year to two, with a third year of private nursing, by which the pupil refunds to the School the approximate amount spent on her education, or the pupil may pay for her two years' training at the rate of 150 dollars a year. It is to be hoped that eventually the standard will be raised to three years in hospital. The present arrangement, however, is an advance, which has, no doubt, been brought about by the pressure brought to bear by the Superintendents' Society and the National Alumnae on the question of pupils doing private duty. In consequence of their doing private duty in their second year, the graduates have been ineligible for the National Alumnae, and this fact has, no doubt, awakened the Board of Managers to the fact of the necessity for raising their standard.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)