

When the honours and rewards for good work during the war come to be given in the coming by-and-bye, it is sincerely to be hoped that the civil Matrons and Sisters will not be overlooked. There is no doubt that both in Kimberley and Ladysmith the civil nurses have borne the heat and burden of the day, and some recognition from a grateful nation is due to them.

The fact that amateur nurses are running rampant in the military hospitals in South Africa, points to a lack of organization on the part of the War Office. Unqualified men would not be permitted to undertake the medical care of the sick—why should those who are uncertificated nurses be permitted to annoy our sick soldiers by their unwelcome attentions. We are glad to notice that Mr. Treves' remarks have had their effect upon the influx of untrained women to South Africa.

The Infant Nursing Prodigy.

At last Sir Henry Burdett has accomplished the height of his ambition, and taken the Chair at a Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the society of women which he vilified in his newspaper for years, and in fact so long as it was working on self-respecting and professional lines, and through which, therefore, no professional philanthropist could find a loop hole for self-advertisement. In moving a vote of thanks to this gentleman for taking the Chair at a meeting of persons whom his paper described as "women of pseudo-respectability" and "the scum of the nursing profession," his faithful henchman, Mr. Edward Fardon, of Middlesex Hospital, seized the occasion to belaud his patron. Sir Henry Burdett, according to the official organ, "in responding, gave some interesting reminiscences of his experiences in the infancy of trained nursing, when, in conjunction with Mrs. Wardroper, *he initiated the especial training of young women to take the place in hospitals of the time-honoured old nurses*"!! (The italics are ours.) Trained nurses who know both the history of the pioneers of their profession *and the age of Sir Henry Burdett*, will be intensely amused at this impudent statement. In the year of grace 1857, when Florence Nightingale, with characteristic genius and generosity, and in conjunction with Mrs. Wardroper, the late Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, inaugurated the first School of Nursing Sir Henry Burdett had arrived at the ripe age of ELEVEN!!

An Infant Nursing Prodigy, indeed!

The American Nursing World

THE MENTAL NURSE QUESTION.

EVERYTHING which gravitates towards reform and greater efficiency in the nursing of the sick, either in hospitals or asylums, is, we know, of interest to the readers of this journal, and as, sooner or later, a defined curriculum of training and a definite standard of efficiency will be evolved and adopted, it will be well to carefully read and consider the opinions of all nurses and doctors who, having practical experience in the training of nurses, are qualified to express an opinion on a subject of such immense importance to the world at large.

No action upon the part of the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association aroused a greater sense of outrage than their proposal—adopted by a packed General Council—to admit to membership and Registration untrained male and female asylum attendants as *trained nurses*, and nothing proved so absolutely the ignorance and lack of conscientious responsibility to both trained nurses and the public, of Mr. Fardon, Dr. Outterson Wood, and their supporters, than that they should have made such a suggestion to the Council.

Years have elapsed and, so far, this shameful suggestion has not been carried into effect; but, as we have stated before, the Resolution sweeping away at one fell swoop the professional privileges won by the founders of the British Nurses' Association in 1893, still stands unrescinded upon the Minutes of the Association, and with the present amenable General Council and Executive Committee there is little hope that any protest would be made, should the "powers that be" determine to place these untrained men and women on the so-called List of Trained Nurses!

It is acknowledged that the care of the insane has reached a far higher standard in the United States than it has in Europe, and, indeed, the system of "nursing" in preference to "attending" mental sufferers, originated in the fertile brain of the American physician, so that the opinions and conclusions of American nurses on this special branch of nursing are valuable.

The subject of nursing the insane was considered at last year's meeting of the American Society of Superintendents, and was opened in an

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