

The Plumber-Nurse.**ANOTHER PLEA FOR STATE REGISTRATION.**

"PLUMBER, experienced, wanted to act also as attendant. Wages to commence at £40, rising to £65, with board, lodging, washing and uniform. Apply Superintendent, County Asylum, Prestwick."

DEAR MADAM,—The above advertisement appeared a day or two since in a Manchester paper and by its extraordinary import called forth various remarks—By one man, "Surely an experienced plumber does not need to add Attendant's duties to his own," by another, "How very convenient to have a fellow always on hand, with a bag of tools, to knock down a refractory patient," a trained nurse remarked with some bitterness that she might have applied for so comfortable a post as far as *attending* went, but she had no experience in plumbing—and I who have been denounced for daring to protest that Asylum Attendants had not the necessary qualifications to be admitted on the Register of the R.B.N.A. saw visions of a fresh campaign.

When, however, it is proposed that plumbers with asylum experience shall be admitted as members of the Royal College of Surgeons, of course no surgeon will object, and if a trained nurse can prove that she has put a washer on a tap and plastered up a leak in a gas-pipe, surely no plumber will object to her name being added to the Register of Certificated Plumbers.

Had the advertisement been worded, an experienced Attendant wanted to act also as Plumber, most people would have thought that the advertiser should be an inmate of a ward in the Asylum.

With the return of our troops from South Africa there will be quite a number of orderlies who though not experienced plumbers will be more likely to have the probationary training of Attendants. My own experience of my friend the plumber is, that he has much to learn in the way of attaining the "iron hand in the silken glove"; also one has an idea that cleanliness is necessary for an Attendant—and who ever saw a plumber *clean*?

I was told the other day by a good man in authority that we in the North took the lead in affairs referring to Hospitals, etc. I did not agree, but am now much enlightened, and send these remarks on the way things are done here.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

SUSAN M. HUGHES,
Manchester.

Registered Nurse, Consul for R.B.N.A.

The proposal that a mechanic should combine the occupations of plumber and asylum attendant is really not so surprising to us as it appears to Mrs. Hughes. The colossal ignorance of those responsible for the care of the sick both in body and mind is being gradually realised by us, and to dispel this terrible ignorance is the gigantic task which, as editor of this paper, we set ourselves seven years ago.

Indeed, why not "plumber" nurses, as well as all the other bogus and incapable species, which have been given a new and flourishing lease of life by the apostacy of Mr. Fardon and his supporters over the question of State Registration?

We will take Mrs. Hughes' own case. Here we have a lady trained in nursing, full of bright intelligence, for years a supporter of legal status for nurses. Convinced three years ago of the danger to the sick, and the damage to trained nurses, which would result from the iniquitous proposal made by the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to place male and female asylum attendants, untrained in general nursing, upon the Register (now defunct) of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and to make these workers eligible for membership of the trained nurses' Association; Mrs. Hughes helped materially by protesting at a public meeting in London to defer this appalling action upon the part of Mr. Fardon and his colleagues, and yet a few months later we find Mrs. Hughes accepting office as a Lady Consul of the R.B.N.A. under the new Bye-laws which violated every honourable contract made with the Founders of the Association, and which have handed the Nurses' Association over bound hand and foot to the control of a medical oligarchy, *under the direct personal authority* of the medical Hon. Secretary, Mr. Fardon, of Middlesex Hospital, who has publicly *voted against the fundamental principle of State Registration for Nurses*, for which the R.B.N.A. was founded and stood firm for years!

To prove the accuracy of our statement, we will quote the President's written words and the resolution supported by Mr. Fardon.

STATEMENT SIGNED BY PRINCESS CHRISTIAN,
PRESIDENT, ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION, 1894:—

"It is the hope of the Corporation that the time is not far distant when the State will see the importance of recognising a definite Diploma of Nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses."

RESOLUTION VOTED FOR BY MR. FARDON, MED.
HON. SECRETARY, ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION, AT BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, 1896:—

"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"!!!

Now, from what we know in the past of Mrs. Hughes' conscientious conviction on the question of State Registration for nurses, for the protection of the trained nurse, and also for the

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