

### A Magnificent Gift to Scotland.

Mr. Carnegie, the Scottish-American millionaire, has made to his native land a gift as wise as it is magnificent. He has announced his intention of providing free education at four of the Scottish Universities—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrew's—a scheme which will cost about £2,000,000. The gift is for Scotch men and women—we thank him for those words *and women*—and does not apply to English, colonial, or foreign students. It will open the doors of these Universities to every boy and girl in Scotland who has sufficient ability to pass the required examinations.

In this great scheme, the conception of a great brain, there is no pauper element, no necessity for poor students to apply for the remission of fees. The gift is for rich and poor alike, so that all men and women in Scotland may enter the University on an equal footing. It is to be noted also that it applies to medical as well as to commercial education.

It is also understood that Mr. Carnegie, in addition to the payment of students' fees has intimated his willingness to contribute freely to other purposes, such as the endowment of professional Chairs.

It is difficult to grasp, in all its far reaching possibilities, the magnificence of Mr. Carnegie's present to his native land, by which he has assured for himself the gratitude, not only of the present generation of Scotch men and women, but of generations to come for all time. The thoughtful provision that this free education is to be theirs by right, and not by patronage or favour, will be deeply appreciated by the sturdy and self-respecting people of Scotland.

### Review.

#### BURDETT'S OFFICIAL NURSING DIRECTORY.

##### AN UNWARRANTABLE CLAIM.

Burdett's Official Nursing Directory has once more been issued. Its claim to be of a "strictly official" character appears to us to be as unwarrantable as it is absurd. Issued under the name of Sir Henry Burdett, whose relations with the nursing profession are merely business ones, with the assistance of an anonymous and shadowy committee of medical men and matrons whose personality may or may not be Harrisian, it is not surprising to find that no standard of training is required in order to obtain admission to this publication, that side by side with the names of matrons and nurses of experience, some of which have to our knowledge been inserted without the permission of the persons concerned, are to be found those of probationers who have not completed their training, who may never be permitted to complete it by the authorities of the hospital in which they are working, but who nevertheless can point to this "official" Directory as evidence of their claim to be trained nurses. There are monthly nurses, with only a few weeks training in a lying-in hospital, asylum attendants with only mental training, women holding only certificates in massage and so forth.

##### ONLY COMPETENT NURSES.

Yet the editor does not scruple to state in the preface that the importance of having only competent nurses to tend the sick is apparent to

everybody, and that it is only by such a directory as his own that any adequate protection is afforded against those who, with little or no training, advertise themselves as fit to perform the duties of a nurse! We can only say that if we found our name in this *omnium gatherum* of Sir Henry Burdett's we should instruct our solicitors to demand its immediate removal, as we should consider its appearance in a publication of this nature calculated to injure us professionally.

##### LACK OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARD.

Reference to the first page of this Directory affords ample proof of its lack of any professional standard. Amongst the eighteen names which occur upon it are those of a nurse, trained within the last decade, with one year's training, of a probationer, of a three months' midwife, of a masseuse, and of an asylum nurse who has had no training in a general hospital. We consider a Directory issued on these lines a public danger, and as such draw attention to it. We do not wonder that, as the preface states, some Matrons have refused to verify the returns sent to them, and consider that they were only fulfilling a public duty in so doing. What medical practitioner who values his professional reputation would allow his name to appear on a Directory containing the names of three months' students? Yet this is the position of trained nurses whose names appear in Burdett's Directory.

##### DIFFICULTIES OF VERIFICATION.

It is noteworthy that Sir Henry Burdett complains that "the difficulties in the way of verification are serious, due in part to the haphazard fashion in which Hospital Registers were formerly kept." Yet in his evidence, given upon oath before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, when opposing the State Registration of nurses, he made the following statement:—"Every nurse's training school keeps a register of its nurses, and issues a certificate to all who have had three years' service. Well, if the public want to know if a nurse is trained, they have only got to ask her to produce her certificate from her nurse's training school, and that is the Registration pure and simple, which is a voucher that they can rely upon."

Which of these statements is true?

##### REVISED AND VERIFIED WITH EXTREME CARE.

We are informed also in the preface that this Directory has been revised and verified with extreme care. Then, how comes it that so many flagrant mistakes occur in its pages? For instance, Miss Georgina Elizabeth Barlow (who so bravely challenged the threat of the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association to remove her name from its Register in a court of law, and won her case) has been married for years, so has Miss Lena H. J. Beecraft. Miss Louisa Alcock left St. John's House in 1890. Miss Lucy Anson long since resigned her appointment of Sister at Guy's. Miss Agnes Bourne is stated to have been private nursing in 1888, the year in which she began her training, the address of Miss C. H. Bourne is given as 29, Weymouth Street, whereas, all the nursing world knows she gave up the superintendence of this Home over a year ago; and Mrs. J. Wheaton and Miss Violet Buchanan are amongst those who are dead. The moral of this publication is that to be of use a Nursing Directory must be under professional control, and the Editor must be a trained nurse, not the chairman of a gas company.

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