

it is desirable to secure the services of a manager who has had experience in this branch of work and who understands domestic economy and the art of cooking. The change of Matron at the Home is the signal for a fresh attack on the management of the Nurses' Co-operation in Sir Henry Burdett's paper, in which he endeavours to sow dissension amongst the staff. We do not anticipate that the article referred to will have the effect intended. There is every evidence that the nurses are quite satisfied that their business is in competent hands, and that the unwarrantable attacks on their Society are arousing deep indignation amongst them. There are no indications whatever that they intend to seek the aid of Sir Henry Burdett as to the management of their residential home and club, and we congratulate them on their sense.

Dealing with "Nursing as an Occupation," the *British Medical Journal* says:—

"The demand of recent years for the services of skilled nurses has, in accordance with the usual law, produced a corresponding supply. There are, indeed, evidences that the market has become overstocked, and that a considerable number who are willing and anxious to work are unable to get occupation. Nursing is pre-eminently work for women, but every woman is not suited for the duties and responsibilities of a nurse. . . . What so many women forget is that a nursing instinct, when trained to the dignity and importance of a profession, carries with it certain penalties of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, which become essential elements in the daily task of those who would successfully minister to the sick. . . . Some are, we are thankful to know, 'to the manner born,' and feel themselves so attracted to the work, for the work's sake, that they enthusiastically devote themselves to the vocation of their choice with an earnestness that sweeps all else aside in a single desire to achieve as nearly as possible the perfection of skill by laboriously plodding along the pathway, be it rough or smooth, of personal experience. It is painful to admit, but it is incontrovertibly true, that a large number of those now occupied in nursing are totally unfit for the duties they are called upon to perform. Some are unsuited from lack of refinement and want of education, others from imperfect training, tactlessness, and carelessness of method, and others again from feebleness of constitution, or infirmity of temper. The following letter affords an amusing example of incompetence. The writer had been attached for some years to a local religious body, and had been sent by our correspondent to a young woman who was suffering from a severe attack of gastric ulceration. The only instructions given her were to administer nutrient enemata at stated intervals, preceded by an ordinary soap-and-water injection. After she had been on duty for three days the doctor received from her the following report:—

"Dear Dr. X.,—I have attended this afternoon Miss Y. She appears more bloodless than ever; her respiration resembles that of bad dropsy. The nutrient enema was ejected after three hours without appearance of slightest change, colour, &c. Rectal tube used 10 in. No resistance to injection. I think there is a block of fæces in intestine high. Before it is too late will you let me make a suggestion? That she have on abdomen three hours, occasionally, hot linseed with a little turps, and after two days take 1 oz. castor-oil every third day for twelve doses. She has painful spasm and hæmorrhoids after soap injection. Is not anæmia the outcome of constipation, doctor? She says for three years she has not had aperient medicine. Please bear with me if I tell you that in the past I have by aperients perforated an ulcer rather than allow death by stoppage, since healing can be found for moving ulcers. I think Miss Y. intends seeing you in the morning. Will you tell her your wishes regarding poultice. I hope to visit in the afternoon.—Nurse Z."

"It is to be hoped," adds our contemporary, "that throughout the large army of nurses there are not many so ignorant or so presumptuous as Nurse Z., but the existence of even a small minority constitutes a grave danger to the public and an intolerable annoyance to doctors."

The "grave danger to the public, and the intolerable annoyance to doctors," caused by the ignorance of women who lightly assume the great responsibilities which devolve on the trained nurse are surely justification for the plea that the time has come when no woman shall be allowed to describe herself as a trained nurse who has not attained to a minimum standard of professional knowledge defined by the State. Only by the publication of a nursing register, under the authority of the State, can the public and the medical profession be afforded a reasonable guarantee that the nurses they employ are competent to perform the duties required of them. Neither the public nor the medical profession have the time or the facilities to make the necessary inquiries into the qualifications of nurses called in in emergencies. The requisite information, compiled by authority, should be forthcoming in a State Register of Trained Nurses.

The Mayor of Derby (the Hon. Frederick Strutt) last week entertained a number of nurses from Derby and district at a garden party at Lea Hurst, the former home of Miss Florence Nightingale, from whom he read a letter he had received wishing those present an enjoyable day. The nurses were taken over the beautiful old house by Mrs. Shore Nightingale, and were greatly interested in a magnificent picture of the hospital at Scutari, which will for ever be associated with the name of Florence Nightingale, and in the nursing badge she wore throughout her work in the Crimea. Amongst those present were:—Miss Sparshott, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Derby; Miss Atthill, Superintendent of

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