

We own we are sorry to find Miss Monk in this category; but it must be remembered that she has held her present position for upwards of twenty years, and that it is one of absolute autocracy, that she still has power, as Miss Lückes has, to summarily discharge any nurse, and, presumably, she finds herself out of sympathy with modern ideas, which claim for each human being a just measure of personal responsibility.

Many of the signatories to the manifesto may not, and doubtless do not, realise what they are doing. It is not so long ago since we were asked by one of them what we meant by "legal status."

Trained and certificated nurses, who know their own minds on this vital question, must offer uncompromising opposition to any assumption of absolute control over them by the managers of so-called charitable institutions, who neither employ nor pay them. In common with the members of all other professions they have undeniable right to combine for their mutual advantage, the purification of their calling, and the protection of the public.

This, in brief, is the position of the progressive, and, consequently, the most intelligent, section of the nursing world, which includes hundreds of trained Matrons and nurses. The obstructors stand for opposition to co-operation, to the organisation of nursing as a profession, and they desire to reserve to themselves the right to utilise the labour of unorganised units as they choose. Whether they know it or not, these, and not the specious fallacies of the "Manifesto," are the real points at issue. Let the employers come out into the open and contest these issues. We shall then, at least, respect their courage, if we cannot agree with their obsolete ideas.

Miss L. L. Dock writes from Athens:—

"I am perfectly amazed to see how Registration is being opposed by your hospital managers. Some of those hospitals must make big profits from their private duty institutions. Opposition of just that peculiar sound is never heard from men except when their pockets are touched. Like the peculiar cries in different diseases, it is unmistakable. Nurses had better pay for their training than be life-long chattels. Is it worth while, for a three years' course, to go into bondage ever after? Everything that these committees are doing for them nurses could do for themselves, and do better; yet now, because they think they own the nurses, these men are opposing a reform that is universally acknowledged to be necessary!"

### A Strange Discovery.

The statement made by Dr. Clarke, of the Central Ophthalmic Hospital, that one of His Majesty's Judges is blind of one eye, but never discovered the fact until he was over forty years of age, may sound almost incredible, yet the failure to make a discovery of this kind is really quite common. Strange as it may seem, also, it is actually the rule for people who are colour-blind to go all their lives without ever finding it out.

## Legal Matters.

### A PLEA FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

#### NURSING UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.

Laura Burton, who appeared before the magistrates in nursing uniform, was recently charged at Bournemouth with stealing a bottle of eau de Cologne from a local chemist.

Superintendent Foster, who asked for a remand, said there were other charges against the defendant. She lived in a house in the neighbourhood as a housekeeper, and he did not yet know whether she was entitled to wear a nurse's dress. He had reason to believe that the course of justice would be interfered with by allowing defendant bail.

She was then remanded in custody.

#### ABORTIONIST DESCRIBED AS A NURSE.

Before Mr. Justice Grantham, Bertha Baudach, fifty-three, described as a nurse, was last week convicted at the Central Criminal Court of the manslaughter of a woman upon whom she had performed an illegal operation, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. She is a "qualified midwife." In 1895 she was sentenced to five years' penal servitude in the same court for procuring abortion, and again last year was tried there for a similar offence, but acquitted, Mr. Justice Lawrance, the presiding judge, administering a severe warning to her. Our first instinct on reading the history of this criminal was to write to the Central Criminal Court and ask by what right she was described as a nurse. A moment's reflection showed us that she has just as much right as a thoroughly qualified woman holding the certificate of one of the first training-schools in the country. If she described herself as a Registered Midwife, not being on the Roll, she could be imprisoned for fraud; if on the Roll her name could be removed from it. But there is at present no means of preventing her from calling herself a nurse, or of repudiating her as a recognised member of the nursing profession. She can so describe herself with impunity.

Presumably the Matrons who are opposing the demand of trained nurses for legal status and Registration see no reason why they should not be classed in the same category as every criminal who chooses to don a uniform and call herself a nurse.

#### MATERNITY NURSE AND MATRIMONIAL AGENCY.

The verdict at the inquest in connection with the Kensal Rise murder was, "That Ellen Sampson was wilfully murdered by George Albert Crossman on the morning of January 16th, 1903."

Ellen Sampson (formerly Owen) went through the marriage ceremony with Crossman, who gave the name of Seymour, on January 15th. She met with her death at his hands the following day.

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