

practitioner and of the patient who employ them, and, therefore, the employer himself, and not the association, is liable for any negligence which may be shown by the nurse. In other words, employers who are injured by carelessness or ignorance on the part of a nurse, however gross it may be, have no remedy or claim for damages against the institution which supplied her. A more powerful argument for the protection of the public by the institution of State Registration, and the establishment of a General Nursing Council, so as to secure the efficiency of trained nurses, could not have been advanced; because this case proves that, under the present circumstances, the public are absolutely powerless to protect themselves.

*Asylum News* apparently finds it very difficult to arouse the members of the Asylum Workers' Association to a sense of professional responsibility on the question of State Registration. The truth is, nurses in all branches are so dominated by their employers and patrons that they are very diffident of offering, even if they have formed, an opinion on their own affairs.

An eminent medical man in Edinburgh lately, discussing the question of Nurses' Registration, said that we "need not fear the opposition of medical men; it was the appalling apathy of the nurses themselves that delayed legislation."

This may be so, but, primarily, it has been the domination of conservative employers, and those Matrons who find it expedient to be in league with them, which has produced this apathy, the inevitable result of hopelessness and suppression. Give trained nurses legal status, that is, enfranchise them professionally, and a new race of nurses will arise—straightforward, conscientious, intelligent women, interested in the good of the community and in their own honourable standing, and we shall no longer be known as a timorous and time-serving class, relying upon patronage for the position we attain in our profession, but through our own exertions earning the respect of those we serve.

Several Boards of Guardians have had the question of State Registration of Nurses before them at recent meetings. Some of the reports are very funny. Those who appear to understand the question invariably realise the importance of nurses in the service of the Poor Law being trained up to the standard and ranking with the general hospital nurses, and these enlightened Boards approve of Registration. Others appear to imagine that the Boards of Guardians must be represented on the Nursing Council and Examining Body. Why? They are not represented on the General Medical Council or the Colleges of Physicians or Surgeons, and yet they employ many medical officers. In a strictly professional matter like this, what qualifica-

tions have Poor Law Guardians for taking part in the examination of nurses? They do not exercise this function even in the infirmaries which they govern. This determination of the employers of nursing labour to control the workers is quite out of the question where men are the employees, and women workers have a right also to claim a fair degree of self-government.

The green-eyed monster ran amok in the office of a contemporary last week and fell foul of the inspirers of national and international nursing aspirations. Unmitigated mendacity has had its day, so has intimidation. We are afraid of neither. In this connection, the Secretary of the International Council of Nurses writes:—

"How sad to see that our old friend Sir Henry Burdett has only words of withering criticism for the International Council! At home I never have time to read the lay nursing papers, but here the much-coveted European leisure allows me to improve my mind by contemplating 'ourselves as others see us.'

"It is indeed an important discovery to find that the nurses of the United States are being imposed upon by designing and helmeted stage villains!—yet as I read a little farther it would seem that we also are classed among these same villains! If so, who are we imposing on? Not on him, at any rate.

"And so he is not going to allow us to be an International Council of Nurses. I shall send him a copy of our reports of nursing in all countries. At least, we have that to show if nothing else. Sir Henry seems to have become cold to us since we failed to grasp the opportunities offered by his Pension Fund and Petticoats. I remember so well his lectures in America, in which he depicted in the most moving terms the poverty of English nurses, one of whom was in such a pathetic state of destitution that she had no red flannel petticoat. His moral seemed to be: 'If you will have my Pension Fund you will always have Petticoats.'

"But, alas! We took neither one nor the other, and since then, whereas before we had been promised front seats in his ample affections, we now seem to be relegated (to borrow his theatrical simile) to the pea-nut gallery!"

Mrs. Nisbet, International Hospital, Kobé, Japan, has kindly sent us a copy of the *Japanese Ladies' Magazine*, of which she writes:—

"You will see it has the picture of a Red Cross nurse's cap on the cover at the beginning, which is, of course, what we would take for the end of the book! The principal illustrations are:—'On the March by Night'; 'The Wife of a Warrior Awaiting his Return'; 'Vice-Admiral Kamimura with his Family'; 'Captain Kawashima and Family'; 'Female Sewing-School in Tokio'; 'Landing of Troops at Yei-jo Bay During China War'; 'Nurses in the Train.' The topics discussed in this number of the magazine are:—'Domestic Preparation in War Time,' by Mrs. H. Hatayama; 'The Work of Ladies During War Time,' by Mrs. H. Iuka; 'Sympathy of Women in War Time'; 'Domestic Economy in War Time'; 'Domestic Training of English Girls'; 'Short Explanations on the War,' by a girl editor; 'Japanese

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