

investigation of the subject. Subsequently a certain Division passes a strong resolution against this principle, which resolution the Division sends not only to the Council of the Association, but also to certain influential persons (not necessarily members of the Association or even of the profession) who are interested in the question.

What I wish to know is whether such action is to be considered loyal to the Association, and likely to promote its interests? It appears to me that if the Divisions are not prepared to abide by resolutions passed by Representative Meetings, but, on the contrary, are to try and thwart, by appeal to outside persons or bodies, any action such resolutions may lead to on the part of the Association, then there is an end to that unanimity and authority in the pronouncements of the Association which some of us believe to be amongst the advantages of the recent reconstitution.—I am, &c.,

A SECRETARY OF A DIVISION.

We presume that the resolution referred to was that passed at Oxford in favour of the principle of the State Registration of Trained Nurses—a principle of which all liberal-minded medical men at home and abroad are strongly in favour of.

We have published three resolutions passed by meetings of medical men against this necessary reform, and all, we regret to note, quite plainly state that to place trained nurses in a just position might injure the material interests of the medical profession. Here, we think, medical men are wrong, and show scant generosity in dealing with a class of women who have in the past proved themselves their first and most indispensable coadjutors in the care of the sick.

Who will deny that the splendid results accomplished in and out of hospital in the practical application of surgery and medicine are largely due to the work of well-trained nurses? The medical faculty cannot get on without them if the patient is to have the best chance of recovery. Why, therefore, this ungenerous attitude upon the part of certain members of the medical profession in this country? It amazes their colleagues in the Colonies, the United States, and, we may even add, in Germany, where medical men are coming out as warm advocates for efficient education, just conditions of work, and the protection by legal status of well-qualified nurses. Insular Britishers are just earning for themselves a most undesirable character for jealous intolerance where women are concerned—a sure sign of national decadence, as history makes quite plain. Man never keeps woman behind the purdah unless he doubts his own powers of supremacy.

Out of the £20,000 bequeathed to the hospitals of London and Surrey by the late Mr. Arthur O. Crookes, the executors have handed over to the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children 2,000 guineas. This amount enables the Board to endow two more beds.

The German Nurses' Association.

The German Nurses' Association met in October for its first winter meeting. The feature of the evening was Dr. Israel's address on the future education of nurses. Many invitations had been sent to hospital managers, public-spirited laymen, and members of the Landtag (Prussian Parliament) and the Reichstag. Dr. Israel is young, liberal, and enthusiastic, and is a strong supporter of the new movement. The question of a better education for nurses in Germany is complicated in the minds of some physicians by the existence of a body of helpers (*Heil-gehilfin*). They are mostly men, though there is also a similar class of women helpers, who appear to be a survival of mediæval times, and who still actually work under an ancient law which requires six weeks of study and practice with a physician. They are, however, in no sense nurses. They have, in some hospitals, only certain periodical duties, as massage or attendance in bath treatment; in private duty they do not take cases, but go by the hour or half-hour, also for massage, baths, cupping, and the like. They also sometimes assist the surgeons in operative work, but on the plane of an orderly rather than nurse. It does not seem necessary to take them into consideration, but some physicians think they should be elevated to the full future training, whatever it is, and are thus disposed to bring the Sisters down to a level which may be attainable by these, rather than to perfect the Sisters' training. Dr. Israel holds the opposite view.

THE FUTURE EDUCATION OF THE GERMAN NURSE.*

By Dr. EUGEN ISRAEL.

If we observe the various efforts made toward advancement during the last ten years, we shall see that those groups have made the greatest progress who have secured the best education for their members. The leaders of the German Nurses' Association realise this truth, and have made the effort toward better training one of their chief interests. We will occupy ourselves this evening with this question.

That the entire nursing system needs reform, and that the reform should be uniformly introduced throughout the Empire, is generally admitted. The majority also agree that the establishment of a State certificate for members of the nursing profession is essential, and, as a matter of course, the State certificate presupposes a definite professional training and a State examination.

To these two generally-accepted principles I would add two others, which I regard as so fundamental that I can only accept the others when based upon these. They are:—

1. Nursing is a specifically womanly calling. Men

* Translated from the German in the *Geschäftspapiere* by Miss L. L. Dock.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)