

We commend the straightforward policy of publishing in full the names of the editorial staff as in this journal, the *American Journal of Nursing*, and in all the reputable professionally-edited nurses' journals, as a feature which Messrs. Macmillan might adopt without running the risk of violating the law of copyright.

In this connection we have before us several notes from "Yours faithfully, the Editor A.M.A.," which, needless to say, remain unanswered. We have also quite a number of these epistles forwarded on to us by our contributors, all of whom have been bombarded with quite extraordinary persistence for "copy," although as registrationists they are one and all beyond the pale. "We are anxious," they run, "to make this Journal for Nurses of the greatest possible *help* (the italics are ours) and interest; indeed, the very best of its kind. Any subject of interest to the Nursing World would be gladly welcomed from your pen." How about a rousing, rattling Registration article? Imagine the flutter behind the grille, should such a bomb be the result of these flattering invitations!

Again, we are informed "that the rate of pay for contributions is at a higher rate than the other nursing journals." Now that is good business, and will no doubt have satisfactory results. Indeed, a contributor with an uneasy conscience writes us "that nurses should stick to their flag, but it becomes difficult when one is trying to earn money. In that case it seems as though the goods must be sent to the market that pays the best regardless of the broader issue."

As against this demoralising sentiment, "their own flag" still has a higher significance for the leaders of professional organisation in this country, and their honoured names are naturally conspicuous by their absence from amongst the contributors to the so-called nursing journals devoid of professional conscience.

#### YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE.

And may we be permitted to inquire how far is it permissible in the ethical code which governs the lay Nursing Press to "lift" items of exclusive news from the professionally-edited registration organs without acknowledgement?

As the official organ of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses we inserted the notice of a recent meeting of the *Executive Committee*. The following week the journal in question announced that the Annual Meeting of members would be held at the same time and place.

The Hon. Secretary of the said Society politely remonstrated, and requested that the business meetings should not be announced without official intimation.

"A. M. A." regretted mistake, but wrote:—"At the same time, we cannot undertake to wait until news of the Society is 'officially sent,' since,

curiously enough, the Hon. Secretary of a Society which purports to be for the good of nurses boycotts in the matter of news an influential journal, also published in the interest of nurses."

Just so; registration in the abstract is, *anathema maran-atha*, distasteful to the large employers of nursing labour and the givers of good "ads," we will have none of it; but as "NEWS," and in so far as registration is A COMMERCIAL ASSET, withhold your information at your peril! Your money or your Life!

The last sentence is also delightful. Conceive a great publishing firm, well known for its business acumen, lavishly distributing largesse in the interest of nurses. Who shall dare to suggest that the Age of Chivalry is no more?

#### YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE.

The fact is that it has never occurred to the officials of professional societies to send notices to the lay nursing press. The Editor of the *Hospital* even, who for so many years has posed as the guide, philosopher, and friend of a certain class of nurse, and who has advised, admonished, and dictated to them in great style, has never claimed to be taken seriously by the Registration party; he has made his paper pay, and thus accomplished its *raison d'être*.

But the rapacious "lifting" of exclusive announcements without acknowledgement to the official organ from which they are copied has its limits, although "A. M. A." may assume the right to violate the rules of journalistic etiquette. This week, cribbed from our columns, together with our heading of "Coming Events," we find the official notices of meetings of the Matrons' Council and Registered Nurses' Society, thereby conveying the false impression to the nursing world at large that these two societies have no more professional self-respect than to make use of a journal which has announced its intention of giving no help whatever to effect the great professional reforms to which they are both pledged, and for which the members have sacrificed so much.

#### NOW A WORD TO THE WISE.

To Macmillan and Co.—Publish the names of your editorial staff, and give your "supervisor" to understand that to "lift" exclusive items of news without acknowledging their source is not only discourteous but actionable.

To our readers—Every panny paid for an anti-registration paper—and those which are not for us are against us—adds to the cost of gaining your heart's desire—namely, Registration by the State. Make no mistake whatever about that.

A class paper without a professional conscience is a snare and a sham, which aims at reaping a rich financial harvest without sowing the seed.

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