

## NURSING LITERATURE.

Within the last few years there has been a notable crop of Nursing Journals, which are the organs of the various Leagues, and we offer our cordial congratulations to the Leagues on their quality. The standard of excellence which is so observable a feature, directly results from their being inspired, edited, and written by trained nurses—*i.e.*, they are conducted by those who understand nursing.

On the Continent the German Nurses' Association is to have its own journal at the beginning of the year, which will no doubt voice the courageous policy of that Association.

In Canada the new comer, the *Canadian Nurse*, is a most successful and excellent journal. It stands firm for Registration, and is the official organ of all the leading societies of Canadian nurses.

In the United States *The Visiting Nurse*, edited by Miss Harriet Fulmer, deals with district nursing matters, as the Queen's Nurses' Magazine does in this country.

## THE LAY NURSING PRESS.

In Great Britain we are afflicted by a commercial nursing press, which for years has opposed by the most unscrupulous methods the justifiable aims of the educated nurses in this country for more efficient educational standards, and a just measure of protection for themselves and the sick. This year a new publication on "business" lines, and secretly edited, has been added by an enterprising firm of publishers, which, with brutal frankness, informed the nursing world that it did not intend to give help or support to its professional ideals, yet with unblushing effrontery it at the same time demanded that our expert information should be placed at its disposal as a commercial asset! We are glad to learn that this impertinent attitude has aroused a keen sense of indignation upon the part of those Matrons and nurses whose professional ideals have no equivalent in £ s. d., and who are quite alive to the danger of commercialism as a basis upon which to conduct so-called nursing journals. We lay it down as an irrefutable principle that a professional journal should be *owned, controlled, and edited* by members of the profession which it proposes to represent, and we nurses cannot do better than follow the ethics of the medical profession in this important matter.

## IN THE HOSPITAL.

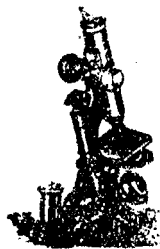
1905 has been a year of growth. There has been no reaction in the hospital and nursing worlds. Indeed, from the three kingdoms come reports of new methods, increased facilities for nursing education, many beautiful new nurses' homes have been opened, work in many in-

stances has been rearranged, lessening the hours on duty, and in hospitals the salaries of senior officials have somewhat advanced. There is also a wholesome tendency upon the part of Hospital Committees to recognise the right to liberty of action upon the part of Matrons in matters professional which are outside their official sphere, thus granting to the woman worker that liberty of conscience which has long been conceded to men.

Thus the past year has been decidedly progressive and wholesome, and as women use well the powers entrusted to them, so will they rise in the body politic, and acquire full civic responsibility. Therefore, away with all that is small and mean. Stand up, look the whole world in the face, and fear no man.

## Medical Matters.

## DIPHTHERIA CARRIED BY CATS.



The susceptibility of cats to diphtheria is well known, and the report recently issued by the bacteriologist for the burgh of Govan embodying the result of his investigations into the possibility of the infection of diphtheria being carried by the lower animals, especially cats, is of interest in this connection. The *Lancet*, dealing with the Report, states that two cats were taken to the laboratory, where their throats were examined. Micro-organisms from the throat were cultivated on artificial media outside of the body, and were found to correspond in every respect to those of the human subject. In one case the cat had been in the habit of sleeping in the same bed as the patient; in the other the child had been carrying the animal in her arms and kissing it. Both cats were ailing previous to the children becoming affected, so that it is quite likely that infection was carried in this way. It is perfectly reasonable, therefore, to suppose that similar instances of undetected or unrecognised attacks of disease among the lower animals have materially contributed to the prevalence of diphtheria. The author of the Report states that of five cases recently reported in Govan three patients came from two families living in adjoining properties, and two from a house in a tenement

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)