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Editorial.

INTERNATIONAL LOYALTY.

The falseness of the charge often levelled at women that they "cannot co-operate" has been proved by the attitude of the leaders of the international nursing movement towards the vindictive statements made by the financier, Sir Henry Burdett, in his paper *The Hospital* with regard to the International Council of Nurses.

As his detractions included not only the British section of the Council, but also its American and German branches, with their splendid organisations, we took care that the prominent members of the Council in each of these countries and elsewhere should see the untrue statements circulated concerning it, being well aware that otherwise they would know nothing about them, as they decline on principle to subscribe to Sir Henry Burdett's paper and consequently never see it.

In every case the tone of the answers we have received has been the same; namely, that the attacks of this man afford the greatest proof of the necessity for our Council, for the mutual help and support which we receive through it, for holding fast to the principles for which we stand, and for the loyalty of all trained nurses to one another, so that they may present a united front to those who desire to utilise them for their own commercial benefit.

The object of Sir Henry Burdett's present attack upon the International Council of Nurses, and on the Matrons' Council, through which its primary organisation took place, is of course quite apparent. He wishes to injure the coming Conference in Paris, and to minimise its importance. To pose as a detractor of the work of professional women is not a high ambition, and the type of man who is content to

assume such a position stands at once self-revealed. British nurses know him too well to take him seriously. They know that at a public meeting in the City of London, when he was compelled to resign the chairmanship of the Welsbach Company, he was accused by the late Mr. Williamson, supported by Lord Weardale, of "trying to hoodwink the committee of investigation so that they might in turn mislead the shareholders in regard to the Kern burner and the loss entailed, that he (Sir Henry) read to the committee a balance-sheet making the loss £479, when as a matter of fact, on casting up the balance-sheet, it was found to be over £21,000!" an accusation which he took no steps to disprove; that recently the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, told him, also at a public meeting, that a statement he then made was untrue, and that he knew it, a charge which he took "lying down." They know his boundless ambition which led him to suppose that he would be elevated to a seat in the House of Lords—and, having failed to realise that aspiration, how he offered himself as a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons and was most ignominiously defeated. It is well known that his chief source of publicity is now derived from his pseudo-nursing journal, that he bitterly resents the fact that intelligent trained nurses prefer a journal of their own, and that those women who compose the Matrons' Council and other self-governing societies of nurses have determinedly opposed his attempt to "corner" the nursing profession for his own purposes. This is the key to the situation.

The lesson of the moment for nurses is the lesson of loyalty to one another. Our position if we stand together is unassailable, and the officers of the International Council of Nurses have learnt this lesson.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)