

# The Nursing Record

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NOTICE.—Should any difficulty arise in obtaining the "Nursing Record" through local news-agents, it is advisable to order it direct from the Publishers.

## EDITORIAL.

LAST week we criticised the first of the arguments upon which Mr. Bonham-Carter's pamphlet upon Registration is based. We proved that there existed—though the pamphlet denied its existence—the closest possible analogy between the cases of Nurses and of Doctors in reference to this matter. That upon each class there had devolved the necessity for a preliminary period of technical instruction; that to secure, to estimate, and to certify the technical knowledge acquired by each, some form of examination was necessary. That the public required protection against untrained Nurses every whit as much as they formerly required it against untrained Medical men. That the point upon which such great stress was laid—the inability of a Register to learn and certify the moral qualities of any Nurse—was altogether outside the question, because no one could expect a Register, which simply aimed at discriminating

trained from untrained women, to do any more than that. Once more noticing the analogy—which the pamphlet here itself denoted—between Nurses and Doctors, we called to mind the patent fact that moral qualities were, at least, as important, if not more so, in the case of Medical men, entrusted as they are, day by day, in countless instances, with the happiness and the honour of their patients, than they could possibly be even in a Nurse. And yet we reminded Mr. Bonham-Carter that the Medical Register cannot, and does not profess to Register the moral qualities of those it enrolls. Finally, we cleared the ground by defining the Register to be simply and solely "an easily referred-to certificate of technical knowledge." Consequently, as the pamphlet itself admitted that Legal Registration can and does act in this invaluable manner, any argument based upon what a Register for Nurses will *not* do, is, we contended, altogether out of place.

Let us make our meaning quite plain. The public has not the slightest power of protecting itself against any woman, however ignorant of Nursing matters she may be, who chooses to call herself a Trained Nurse. Hundreds at least, if not thousands, of these untrained women are at the present moment practising without let or hindrance in this capacity, taking the work from, and the bread out of the mouths of, others who have passed through a prolonged and arduous course of Hospital work; and worse still, through their ignorance, and the unskilfulness and carelessness born thereof, are now causing utterly needless suffering, oftentimes prolonging illness, and retarding recovery, if not actually hastening or causing death. We are not exaggerating the matter one iota. We are quite convinced that if Mr. Bonham-Carter realised for one minute the one-hundredth part of the misery and the pain these ignorant women are daily bringing to the sick in our midst, he would instantly join hands with us, and thereby enormously strengthen the demand which, week by week, is growing in

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