

complains of here, is that he is represented to be in "perfect sympathy with the Association," which he therefore infers that he is not, though immediately afterwards he says that in the abstract an Association of Nurses has his "warmest sympathy."

The important question, therefore, arises as to the reason for Mr. Snell's objection to this Association in its present concrete form. He only tells us that he is not convinced that it is constituted on lines which deserve the support of the Medical profession. But as he does not state which are the features he condemns as either present in, or absent from, the organization, we are unable to discuss that matter, and can only hope that he will be good enough to definitely state them, in which case we shall be most pleased to discuss them with all the care and attention any opinion of Mr. Snell's must always deserve.

But there is one definite objection raised which we can at once consider. Mr. Snell states that, in a pamphlet issued by the Association, there occurs the following paragraph:—"PROFESSION. The word is used advisedly. Nursing to-day is as truly a profession as Medicine and Law—requiring, in its way, as arduous and complete a training, as absolute a devotion to duty, as Medicine and Law demand from their votaries." We have obtained a copy of this paper, and find that the quotation is correct, but that it continues thus: "It is universally recognised as a skilled calling. It is adopted now by hundreds of highly educated gentlewomen. It is in every way a profession; an inseparable part of the noble profession of Medicine." The gravamen of Mr. Snell's letter then seems to be, that this statement issued by the Association is not a fact, and moreover that it will tend to make the Nurse who hears it believe that she is on an equality with the Medical man, and do much harm to the relations which must exist between Doctors and Nurses. Now we have no hesitation in saying, that we consider Mr. Snell is labouring under a great mistake in both these views. To take the latter first, it is absolutely certain that no Trained Nurse, whose foremost and greatest lesson has been obedience—strict, entire, and loyal—will for one moment claim equality with the class to which she has to render that duty. And the better educated and the better trained, Nurses are, the less likely are they invariably found to be, to claim such a position professionally. We speak upon this matter from some considerable experience, both of Trained and unskilled Nurses, and we believe that upon careful reflection Mr. Snell himself would endorse our views.

But are the statements about Nursing, made in the paragraph in question, correct? We firmly

believe that they are totally and scrupulously so. Mr. Snell, it appears, admits that "Nursing is to-day as truly a profession as medicine and law are professions," but denies the accuracy of the rest of the sentence. But, in the first place, we must remind him—as indeed Miss Wood does in her communication on the subject—that the expression "in its way" is a prominently placed, and a most important qualification. It makes the whole sentence of entirely a relative or comparative character, and we cannot but think that Mr. Snell must have overlooked this. For in this connection, it should be noted, that the paragraph does not assert that the training necessary for the Law is as arduous and complete as that required for Medicine, showing that the whole intention was simply to make comparisons, not in any way to infer equalities.

But, *in its way*, let us ask Mr. Snell to compare the Training of a Nurse with that of a Medical student. Let us instance a lady of high birth, education, and refinement, whose work we have ourselves watched. Coming from a home of luxury, and entered as a Probationer at a Hospital, she occupied a small room with another Nurse. Awoke at the same early hour, winter and summer, she was hurried down to a comfortless meal, including cold tea; and then into the Wards, where she had to wash patients, make beds, and clean utensils till every muscle in her body ached. Then up and down, without a moment's rest, carrying pots or emptying basins; a hurried, uncomfortable meal, and then two hours' rest; and then hard manual labour again, concluded by an hour's lecture and note-taking. Hard, almost incessant, work, done bravely, and with an ever-cheerful smile; lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, and Nursing to be attended, remembered, and read up—going on day after day, week after week, month after month, for three years, with a fortnight's holiday annually as the only respite. Is not this training arduous and complete? Let us compare the Medical student's career. Comfortable rooms; breakfast at nine o'clock; three or four hours' lectures; a quiet lunch; a game of tennis or fives, and a pipe; and then four hours' Dissection or Clinical work; two or three months' holiday every year; practically his own master; always able to miss a lecture, to see a boat race, or a football match. Is this training as arduous as that of a Nurse? Mr. Snell himself will admit that it is not; and when it is, moreover, remembered how much better fitted the man's frame is than the woman's to undergo hard manual labour, it must be further granted that the Nurse's training is more arduous than that of the Medical student. Anyone who has experience of the curriculum in a well-organised Nurse-Train-

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