

themselves 'Hospital authorities,' and would find the greatest difficulty in voting themselves adequate salaries—while inadequate salaries would do no good at all, but, on the contrary, would only add one more to the many anomalies of our Hospital system."

* * *

OUR contemporary is evidently bewildered at a literary light describing "material points" as "baseless," making himself an object of ridicule by talking of "original origins," and by prophesying that "the true solution . . . will never disappear." One would like to ask Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT what a "true solution" is; how often "true solutions" do "disappear"; and how it happens that this particular "true solution" will never never never disappear.

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THE *Manchester Courier* has the following important paragraph which I also have reason to believe is quite accurate:—

"The Nursing profession has been in a condition of anxious suspense since November last, awaiting the result of the proceedings which then took place before a Committee of the Privy Council. It will be recollected that the Royal British Nurses' Association applied for a charter incorporating the Association, and authorising it to establish a register of trained Nurses. The Association contended that a register was necessary to safeguard the public against insufficiently trained Nurses, and that the existence of such a register would tend to raise the status of the profession. This view was strenuously opposed in some quarters, and a considerable mass of evidence on both sides was adduced. At the close of the proceedings it was imagined that the issue of the Privy Council's report would be a matter of a few weeks at the outside. But nothing further has been heard of the matter till now. I have, however, good reason to believe that the Privy Council Committee have drawn up their report, but that it awaits the Queen's signature, which cannot be obtained until the return of Her Majesty from Florence."

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I AM told that on the 10th inst., a meeting of the Committee of Management was held at the Grant-ham Hospital to receive the resignation of the Matron (Miss MURRAY), and to take such steps as might be thought fit towards the appointment of her successor.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT kindly sends me the following from the *Hampshire Telegraph*.—

"At the Portsmouth Quarter Sessions, last week, Marion Gowing, 30, who appeared in the uniform of a Hospital Nurse, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a silver cigarette case, value £2, the property of Janie Hewett, on the 28th February, and also to a charge of stealing one gold bangle, value £2, the property of Mrs. Franklin Haynes, on the 18th February. Mr. C. Tyrrell Giles (instructed by Mr. J. F. Granville) prosecuted. The prisoner was also convicted at Norwich of felony on the 1st March, 1890.—Detective Peet stated that he had

traced the prisoner's movements for the past twelve months, and found that wherever she had been, articles of jewellery had been missed, in some case under circumstances of strong suspicion.—Prisoner was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour on each count, 18 months in all."

Our contemporary heads this "Eighteen Months for the Hospital Nurse," but does not seem to see what a scandal it is that this woman, when she comes out of prison again, may do as she has done since she came out of prison last—put on her uniform, produce her old certificates, go into private families, and steal until she is caught again.

* * *

THE following, from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, will be interesting to Nurses as evidence of a movement similar to that in progress in their own profession:—

"Seventeen years have passed away since the National Union of Elementary Teachers held its annual conference in Liverpool. The society had then been in existence seven years, and consisted of 252 local associations, with a total membership of 9,000. To-day the Union can boast of 392 associations, with 23,157 members on their rolls. It will thus be seen that Monday's conference in the great Lancashire port opens under very favourable circumstances. Four years ago it was resolved by the executive that the word "elementary" should no longer form part of the designation of the society, and as the National Union of Teachers this educational organisation seems to have a great future before it. Next Monday something like 900 delegates are to assemble in St. George's Hall, one of the finest buildings in Liverpool, for the purpose of discussing the present position of English teachers and their work.

* * *

PRIOR to 1870, which was the turning-point in the history of primary education in this country, several attempts were made to organise the body of elementary teachers, but with only a limited amount of success. Professional *esprit de corps* was almost unknown among the teachers of that time, though there were many earnest men and women who at times gave public expression to their regrets at the want of organisation among them. In short, before the formation of the National Union no professional basis had been found upon which teachers of all denominations might unite, and to this fact must be attributed the comparative failure of previous attempts. One result of this lack of organisation was seen in the feeble opposition to the Revised Code of 1861, when the Robert Lowe of that day produced a document that was so fruitful in "cram" and "over-pressure." No means then existed for ascertaining the collective opinions of elementary teachers, and no authoritative expression could be given to the opinions of the existing associations, as they possessed no organ and no representative body entitled to be their mouth-piece. Hence the educational legislation of the time was based mainly on theoretical considerations, and was necessarily impracticable and vexatious.

* * *

Such was the position of the elementary teacher previous to 1870, which witnessed the birth of the National Union. Mr. Forster's great Act gave a mighty impetus to elementary education, and it was then that the desire for professional unity among teachers took definite shape. In the September of that year a meeting of London and provincial teachers took place in the theatre of King's College, and a resolution was passed declaring the National Union of Elementary

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