

name does not appear in the 'register of the Royal British Nurses' Association; and although she said in her evidence before the coroner that she was 'properly certificated,' and although the Lady Superintendent of the Institution from which she was sent forth described her as having 'excellent testimonials,' these expressions are too vague to be satisfactory. Her conduct, as described by herself, was precisely what might have been expected from a woman of kindly nature, anxious to do her best for her patient, and absolutely unskilled in the duties which she had undertaken to perform. To a properly trained Nurse it would usually be a matter of second nature to put a bottle containing poison in a place of safety, and also to know exactly where to find any medicine which she might require during the night. I hope, therefore, that the authorities of the 'Institute of Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine,' which, I believe, is the correct title, will state explicitly every detail of the Nurse's Hospital training, giving dates and places. It may be that her training has been sufficient, but the question is one which must be raised and which ought to be completely set at rest.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. R. C. S."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES."

SIR,—Whatever conclusions the public at large may have drawn from the strange silence of the Superior of the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine respecting the Hospital training received by the Nurse implicated in the terribly tragedy of last week at Bengoe College, there is a very strong feeling amongst medical men on the subject. Your correspondent "F. R. C. S.," in *The Times* of the 19th inst., in suggesting that the Superior of this Private Nursing Institution should "state explicitly every detail of the Nurse's Hospital training, giving dates and places," surely asked for no more than the coroner should have asked, or than the public is entitled to know, concerning a woman who was sent out by that Institution as a trustworthy Nurse, yet who poisoned her patient by "gross negligence and carelessness." Why has the manager of this Institute withheld the information? Why has she not proved that the Nurse whose efficiency the Institution tacitly guaranteed has received the Hospital training sufficient to qualify her to perform her very responsible duties? It surely cannot be possible that this Institute sends out for its pecuniary profit, to take charge of sick people whose life and death may depend upon the experience and trustworthiness of their attendants, Nurses whose technical education can be in the smallest degree questioned. It is most lamentable that a public inquest should be necessary to reveal to the public the dangers from ignorant or untrustworthy Nurses to which they are exposed. But now that the matter has been raised, it is well that the whole truth should be told, and that means should be taken to avoid such tragedies in future. To some extent the public are now protected by the register of Nurses to which "F. R. C. S." alludes, and which is proving of invaluable assistance to medical men, many of whom refuse to accept from Institutions Nurses who have not been registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association, whose characters and education have therefore been investigated by an independent body and who are under direct professional control.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, M.D.

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THE recent distribution of Prizes at the General Hospital, Bristol, will be a memorable occasion to many. How excellent a spirit there is in this Training School is evidenced by the following account of part of the proceedings:—Dr. SOLLY addressed the gathering, and said they had now 50 Nurses working in the house, besides about 30 private Nurses. Of these he could speak most favourably, as they were always sought after from such centres as Liverpool, Lincoln, Torquay, and Stratford-on-Avon. During the past year the health of the Nurses had been very satisfactory, two only having been seriously ill, with typhoid fever, but they were now better. The past year had been one of a great many changes, as they had lost some who had been with them a number of years, and had gained their appreciation. With regard to their recent examination, they had passed through it very successfully, and this was a matter for satisfaction, as it was of a very practical nature. They had been set difficult papers, and both the written and *viva voce* answers had been capital. He had given about twenty-four lectures to the Nurses, and he would take that opportunity of thanking them for their patient and evidently close attention to them. They had shown very great interest in them, and this was further shown by the class of books they had selected as prizes. (Hear, hear.) This was a very good sign, and set a capital example to a good many medical students. (Hear, hear.) Concluding, he said he was sorry that shortly he should have to take his departure, and before doing so he must say the three years spent with them had been very happy ones. Everyone had been very good to him, and he was very fortunate in having the co-operation of two such Matrons as Miss Bann and Miss Morris, who had worked with him most harmoniously, and not in that spirit of armed neutrality or forced politeness they heard of in some institutions. (Hear, hear.) When he got away, and anyone asked for a Nurse, he should always say, "Send to the Bristol General Hospital, and never mind the distance or the railway fare," as he had always found them most kind and considerate. In bidding them good-bye he wished everyone connected with that Institution continued happiness and prosperity. (Hear, hear.) Miss MORRIS added her testimony to the previous speakers in praise of Dr. Solly, and, referring to the recent examination, said the Nurses took very great interest in it indeed, in fact there was quite a general excitement over it, one of the Nurses saying that if Dr. Solly had asked she could easily have told him the "symptoms of

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