

gentlemen whose names we have given are apparently responsible for the management of this commercial-charitable concern. No particulars as to the income and expenditure are before us, and, therefore, we are unable to judge whether the charitable or the commercial element predominates. These gentlemen will, we feel confident, agree with us, that, if they take the serious responsibility of sending out trained Nurses for a money consideration to "private families," it is their first and essential duty that the women, whose efficiency they thus guarantee, shall have been efficiently trained in Hospitals for the serious duties which they may be expected to fulfil. They will at once agree with us that to send out a semi-trained woman, when asked to supply a trained Nurse, is a cruel deception of the public. We need hardly express our firm conviction that they would not sanction such a proceeding for a moment, because, putting aside all other considerations, it would clearly be obtaining money by false pretences.

We cannot but hope, therefore, that the managers of this Institution will now realise the—doubtless false—impressions which are being aroused in the public mind by their silence, and the inevitable detriment which it will cause to their business, and will, without further delay, give the explicit information concerning this Nurse's training, which has been demanded.

We have treated the matter as our readers will observe as far as possible as an impersonal question. Accidents will happen and no one is infallible. We do not either blame the Nurse so hardly as some of our contemporaries have done, nor do we condone her fault so completely as others have sought to do. We will not express our opinion upon the nursing education which she has had until we have the definite facts before us, and we would not willingly say anything to add to the poignant regret which she must feel at having done a child to death. The pity of it is too great for wordy recriminations. All we desire to do is to arouse the public for its own sake to prevent such tragedies in future. They have happened before, and unless due precautions are taken, they will occur again, and more lives loved by, or valuable to, others will be hurriedly and painfully cut

On broad principles we have been much impressed by the evidence of untrustworthiness displayed in the case of this "Certificated" Nurse. In the first place it is difficult to understand a well trained Nurse leaving a bottle of pure carbolic acid or any other poison amongst the medicine bottles; or to imagine her "pouring something" promiscuously into a glass, and without knowing what that "something" was, giving it to her patient to drink. The theory of not being "properly awake," we give no credence to. Care in the dosage and administration of drugs becomes, waking or sleeping, a second nature with experienced Nurses, and if this Nurse had been asleep she could not have been "aroused," nor could she have "sprung out of her bed quickly," as she stated at the inquest. The arrangements for the nocturnal nursing of these boys suffering from measles is not the least extraordinary part of the proceedings. It might be imagined that five boys during the first onset of the fever would require considerable care in the night, as well as by day. It would appear that this Nurse was expected to bestow this incessant attention, and yet that she was permitted to go to bed, conditions which are somewhat incompatible. If the accident had occurred after from seventy-two to ninety-six hours of attendance the tragedy would have appeared to us to be quite explicable, and indeed might then have been fairly ascribed to the natural result of such a cruel strain on human strength. But the Nurse only came on duty at five o'clock. She went to bed at 10 o'clock, apparently in the same dormitory as the measles stricken boys, and three hours later the tragedy occurred.

There did not, therefore, exist any pretence of total brain weariness from prolonged strain and watching, which could alone have been advanced as an excuse for the "gross negligence and carelessness" displayed in this case. But this only makes it the more imperative that the governing body of St. John the Divine should immediately make it clear that this woman, whom they guaranteed to the Head Master of Bengoe College as a skilled Nurse, had received sufficient Hospital training to justify the Sisterhood in sending her out to private families. There are rumours which

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