

waiting some two or three weeks for a reply, we again wrote to this lady, taking it for granted that our letter must have miscarried. But as, again, some few weeks have elapsed without an answer, we are reluctantly compelled to believe that there is a considerable lack of business-like promptitude—we will not say of courtesy—in the management of the new Society. We only mention the fact, however, in order to explain that we are not able to give our readers the information they desire, from official sources, and that the following remarks are founded upon facts drawn from various statements which have appeared in the Press, and the authenticity of which, therefore, it is impossible for us to guarantee.

The objects of the Association then appear to be (1) to organize a more adequate supply of Nurses to be at the command of European patients of all classes in up-country stations and elsewhere; and (2) to this end to enrol as members or yearly subscribers of small sums to the local branches of the Association, in their own districts, all European residents, official and non-official, civil servants, political and military officers, merchants, engineers, planters, missionaries, railway and other managers and their employes, who shall thereby become entitled to the services of a Nurse in illness at a rate proportionate to their means. "It is hoped and intended," says the *Queen*, in an article which seems to be officially inspired, "that this co-operative system will be, in a large measure, self-supporting. But if the Association is to reach the large class of poorer Europeans who cannot possibly afford a Nurse's fee of £10 a month, it cannot be entirely so."

To put it briefly, therefore, it would appear that the Association considers it necessary to get more Nurses for India, and to obtain money from England in order to pay them. Now, from information which we have received again and again from India, and from English Nurses who have gone out to that country, —and which, by the way, is emphasized in the important article from the *Indian Medical Record*, which we reprinted in our columns, last week—there are too many, rather than too few, trained Nurses now in our great Dependency; and their bitter cry is that they cannot get enough work to do. Consequently,

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

the assumption of the Association, that a "more adequate supply of Nurses" is needed, is based upon a complete misapprehension of the actual facts of the case—a vital misconception, which we cannot but feel is not calculated to strengthen public confidence in the entire scheme. For the words of our medical contemporary—putting aside all the corroborative information in our possession—admit of no misconstruction. "Our large cities," it said on January 1st, 1893, "are now becoming glutted with Nurses, and there is complaint that many are out of work for long intervals and find it difficult to live."

Equal exception might be taken to the assumption of the Association that a co-operative scheme for the supply of Nurses would not be self-supporting. Such a scheme was suggested by the Royal British Nurses' Association, in 1888, and has since been adopted and carried into effect by another Society in London, with a considerable measure of success, which will probably become still greater as it gains wider professional knowledge, approval and support. We can perceive no reason why a similar result should not be achieved, by proper organization, in India; on the other hand, there are many and excellent reasons why a co-operation of Nurses, in that great country, should do great public service and be of equal professional benefit. But the charitable element must—and as speedily as possible—be eliminated; the scheme must be made—as it easily could—completely self-supporting, upon a business-like footing; because, as we have often had occasion to remark before, commerce and charity do not mix well together, and should, for the benefit of both, always be kept distinct, the one from the other. Then, again, it should be remembered that in private Nursing in India it is essential that the Nurse should be acclimatised, and shall not be constantly invalidated herself. Consequently, it is wiser that women who have lived for years in the country, and have been trained in its European Hospitals, should be chiefly employed, rather than that Nurses should be sent out from England.

We would, therefore, advise those of our readers who desired to obtain employment

Why does the **Bracher-Patent Water Condenser** give such general satisfaction? Because all impurities are removed and the Apparatus is simple, perfectly automatic, and quite reliable. Price lists post free.—**JOHN A. GILBERT & Co.**, Sole Manufacturers, 4, Mount Pleasant, Gray's Inn Road London, W.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)