

the porters ; that it was customary for Probationers on night duty to be sent to bed at 10 o'clock a.m., roused at two o'clock to attend a lecture, and then be sent back to bed again—as if either the instruction, or the broken rest, could be of the slightest benefit to them ; and other similar complaints. As usual, an immense effort was made to prove that the charges were unfounded : the Committee took a leaf out of the book of the London Hospital Committee, and attempted to burke inquiry, and to whitewash themselves. But the medical men at Glasgow were of very different calibre to their *confrères* at the London Hospital, and, as honourable gentlemen, supported the demand of the Nurses for inquiry, and, if necessary, reform. The help of the local press was ungrudgingly given, and the result was, that although the Committee denied in effect that there was anything wrong, the matron resigned, and Mrs. STRONG, who, as matron of the Infirmary for some years previously, has earned the respect and esteem of the Nursing profession in Scotland, was requested to return to the office which she had filled so well. She consented to do so—it was reported at the time, on the condition, that she should have *carte blanche* to make the necessary reforms ; and practically the scheme which we now place before our readers is the outcome of her work in re-organising the Nursing Department. We are led to believe that, in other ways, the just complaints of the Nurses have been satisfied.

Now, the moral which we desire very earnestly to press upon the attention of our readers is this : The Glasgow Nurses had the courage of their opinions, they worked loyally together in demanding reforms, and, therefore, they received the help of the medical staff, and of ourselves, and our contemporaries. The result was, that they won everything and, indeed, far more than all, for which they contended. Nurses in other Institutions are today in even worse case than the Glasgow Nurses were in 1891. They are subject to absolute tyranny, to unjust dismissal from their Hospital, and consequent loss of their education and their certificate, at the unfettered caprice of a single official—paid like themselves by public money—responsible

like themselves to public opinion. They are exploited, sent out to make money for the Institution, and—it is believed, in some cases—large commissions for those who thus utilize their labour, and this, even during the time when they should be obtaining those benefits of training in the wards which they entered the Hospital to gain, and which the Hospital authorities solemnly undertook to give them. We do not blame them for meekly bearing everything, believing that there is no hope for them of justice if they remonstrate, and knowing that they must gain their certificate if they desire to succeed in their future work. But we, do very seriously blame them, and the public will hold them blameworthy if, when one or more of their number has made a public complaint—as, for example, occurred in 1890, in the case of the London Hospital Nurses—they allow themselves to be terrorised into silence, and do not avail themselves of the opportunity to prove themselves self-respecting women—to come forward in support of their colleagues, and tell the truth without fear or favour. To the London Hospital Nurses especially, we commend this instructive story of the revolt at Glasgow. They had their opportunity in 1890, and did not take it. The consequences are obvious, and they, indirectly, are suffering from the low esteem in which their Training School is now held in professional circles.

But the scheme of education to which we now draw attention is the chief outcome of the honesty and courage of Glasgow Nurses, although it must, at the same time, not be forgotten that the form which it has taken, is probably due entirely to the ability and wise foresight of Mrs. STRONG.

Some three years ago, we sketched out the kind of professional training which we imagined would, probably, in the future, be enforced in the education of Nurses. And we are free to confess, that, while the scheme which we now publish, in some details, agrees with ours, in others, it is much superior. We believe that it is still capable of improvement, especially as to the length of ward work required from the Probationer. But, as it stands, it is far in advance of any system now in force in

---

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

---

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](#)