

to their work, the most approved methods, plans, and so on. It seems to me as though it would be a help to nurses, to do the same, especially such of us as are scattered in country towns, and hospitals remote from the larger cities."

WE sincerely sympathise with the Editor in the indignation which quackery in the Nursing ranks causes her, and would advise that the one great remedy which British Nurses, imbued with professional feeling, are adopting in England, should be speedily adopted in America—Registration of the thoroughly trained and certificated Nurse. The following notes *re* "Quack Nurses" are of great interest:—

"This 'trained Nurse by correspondence' business grows. The 'Correspondence School' has reduced its rates and its curriculum. Before it had the decency to propose a year's reading before granting a diploma. Now it cuts the year's course down to three months, the price down to eight dollars (two for \$15), and promises its students 'good employment at good pay.'

"This is the way the glittering hook is baited: 'This is your opportunity! No where else will your dollars earn so much. It will prove the best investment of your life. Suppose you never take up a trained Nurse's work—what would you exchange for the ability, if necessary, for you to use it in some emergency, that you may acquire with us at so small a cost. Moderately good Nurses, with no training except experience, command readily \$12 to \$20 per week. What might you not do with study and a little experience. This work opens up a bright prospect to many women who are doubtful or discouraged about the future. Many women are not self-supporting because they are vacillating or uncertain in determining upon and following up a course.'

"All that is needed is two hours a day study and a little experience, and a salary of from \$12 to \$20 a week is assured.

"But this is not all. Encouraged by their seeming success the plan has been taken up by others. In a late number of *The Silver Cross*, one of 'the King's Daughters,' a Mrs. M. E. Griffith, of Philadelphia, Pa., advertises for 'the names of those who desire to become trained Nurses by studying at home.'

"We cannot afford to sit still and say nothing while quackery invades the profession. The quack who shrouds herself in the broad mantle of a 'diploma'd Nurse,' diploma'd Nurses must expose and cast out.

"We are honestly sorry that the day has not yet dawned when these invaders of the noblest profession on earth cannot be treated as they would, did they invade the medical ranks—that public opinion is not strong enough to either shut up or shut out these quack teachers and their pupils.

"This thing would not command our attention, would not challenge a line from our pen, did not all these diploma mills advertise for and promise to turn out *trained Nurses*. But we will promise trained Nurses everywhere that the medical profession of this country shall have such a knowledge of these mills and their workings that their poor dupes of pupils will find public sentiment in that quarter strong enough to teach them that a 'correspondence' diploma is enough to bring to its holder everlasting disgrace."

WE are informed that Miss RENNIE is not going to give up her Nursing Home in Aberdeen, and that the new Rahere Nursing Home, which is to be opened by Miss MARY BARKER, is an entirely separate establishment.

## Matrons in Council.

### WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?



MADAM,—The point brought out by Miss Isla Stewart, and "An old Lady Pupil," that, having paid a fee for training, the Probationers in the past were keenly anxious for a *quid pro quo*, in the way

of instruction, is doubtless true. Every day, in fact, as it passed, was anxiously reviewed by the paying pupils, who "were ever on the alert, asking questions, observing much, feeling injured in spirit if after a day on duty they had not acquired fresh knowledge." What we have got to ask ourselves at the present epoch is—Is this the spirit which animates the regular non-paying Probationer of to-day?—the Probationer who is admitted into our training schools—institutions, we must remember, regulated and organized upon a much improved system and more liberal scale than formerly—and who receive salary, board, uniform, washing, and trained instruction, in many instances for a term of three years! Is the desire as keen for thorough *Nursing* knowledge and experience? Is it considered a *privilege* to nurse the difficult and heavy cases—cases requiring health, strength, and off-duty time on the part of the Nurse? Is the *pride* in the exquisite cleanliness, order, and comfort of the ward and patients as great? Is the conscientious observance of just rules—the honour of the Hospital—as keen in the latter-day Nurse as of old? If the Matrons of to-day can answer these questions in the affirmative, then the system requires but little change. If not, well "there is something rotten in the State of Denmark," and we must discover the microbe.

"AN OLD-FASHIONED MATRON."

Before us, we have the Diary of a Paying Pupil, which is of interest of connection with this question; the first entry in which is as follows:—"9 p.m. I am grievously disappointed. I am far too comfortable. I am warm; no wonder, with such a fire in my bedroom. 'To unpack by,' the maid explained. We have had *late* dinner, the Lady Superintendent and I together. I expected to be cold and hungry—I am neither. We had three courses and two vegetables—is it right?—and tea after dinner with *cream* in it. Oh! I expected everything to be *so* different; this is all comfortable, luxurious, common-place—I want something *real*. I hope this will not be toy nursing. Fancy being off duty at 8, and off from 3 to 6. I want to be *tired*. I want to learn. I have done very little all

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