

the question of Registration has become much better understood in professional circles. Still, it behoves all who desire the speedy and universal adoption of the system to lose no opportunity of inculcating its benefits. This appears to us to be the more necessary in view of the very general feeling which appears to exist, that there is no further necessity for discussing this matter; that the Association need only drift with the tide, and rest on its oars, and that, in due course of time, opposition must die out from sheer fatigue, and then all Nurses will become registered, almost of necessity. This argument, we have excellent reasons for believing, is most fallacious. It will be many years, probably, before the Registration of Nurses is made compulsory by Parliamentary enactment, and, meanwhile, the system will grow, more, or less, successful solely in proportion to the amount of professional support which it receives, and to the amount of public benefit which it is proved to bestow. It is necessary, therefore, whenever a case occurs in which the advantages of a system of Registration for Nurses are made apparent, that the facts should be carefully noted, and the attention both of the profession and the public called to them. We hope, therefore, that all our readers, all over the world, will help in this good work by sending us the particulars of any such typical case as the one for which we have, this week, to thank a valued correspondent in Norwich, and the details of which will be found in another column.

The salient points to which we desire to draw attention are these. A young woman who had just left prison could think of no easier method of obtaining work without a character than by dressing herself up in a Nurse's uniform. It is at least probable—in fact, in this instance, it is more than probable—that, upon a previous occasion, this young woman had discovered the efficacy of this course of action. When arrested on a charge of forging an order on a tradesman for a nurse's cloak, bonnet, and dress, she is said to have confessed to the offence, and to have added as her excuse: "*I thought if I got a nurse's uniform I might get a situation as Nurse.*" There is a little mystery in this case which we should be glad to have explained. The acting Lady Superintendent of the Norwich Staff of

Nurses stated that on one particular occasion, last year, the prisoner had been engaged as a Nurse by the Institution, but that her name had soon been struck off the list. It would be interesting to know whether CATHERINE GILLESPIE has been really trained as a Nurse or whether she obtained work in Norwich under false pretences. In the former case, it would be advantageous to know where and when she received her technical education, and whether she holds the certificate of any recognized Training School; in the latter case, we should be grateful for the particulars. Anyhow, it is clear that the prisoner proved herself to be unworthy of trust; but it appears probable that, despite this fact, she obtained Nursing work after being discharged from the Norwich Institution until her career was terminated by imprisonment. Then, on the day she leaves prison, she made her arrangements by committing—according to her own statement—a criminal offence, to assume once more the garb of a Nurse, in the confident belief that—fresh from gaol and tainted with a new offence—she would still find no difficulty in obtaining work in that capacity—and in bringing fresh disgrace upon the profession. Now we would like the public clearly to comprehend that, had it not been for a trivial accident, this woman would have obtained the uniform she wished, and that there is every reason to suppose that she would have been able to obtain admission into private houses with unlimited opportunities of pilfering placed at her disposal. Is not the benefit, to the public, of a Register, clear in such a case as this. The non-appearance of this woman's name on the list would have led to the institution of inquiries, which, under ordinary circumstances and the production of a bundle of certificates and testimonials, would never have been made, and thus probably a considerable amount of annoyance, if not of pecuniary loss or even of danger, would have been saved to her probable patients.

The advantage, to the Nursing profession, of compulsory Registration in such a case is even more manifest. The genuine members of the profession would then be able to point to the Register and say with confidence—"This woman is an impostor, so far as her pretence to be a Trained Nurse is concerned. Anyone can see, by looking at that list, that

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)