

the decision at which it unanimously arrived last year; and, on the other hand, that the proposals to legislate for Midwifery Nurses introduce not only novel principles but a distinction between different sections of the Nursing profession, which might be, and probably would be, fraught with the utmost detriment both to medical men and to the public, whilst its consequences would be scarcely less disastrous to Nurses. We are, however, glad to emphasize the fact that the decision at which the Association arrived last year, remains unimpeached.

We hope to take an early opportunity of calling attention to the salient features of a Bill which has been drafted by Dr. Rentoul of Liverpool, and which in many ways deserves most serious consideration; but, for the present, we feel impelled to reiterate once more the principles upon which we, and those who have been working with us in this matter, feel convinced that all Nursing legislation must be based.

The first and cardinal fact, and one which should be set forth in the preamble of any Nursing Bill, or at least in the clearest possible manner in its definition clause, should be that Nurses are women who are prepared to attend upon the sick, or upon women in labour, under the direction and control of registered medical practitioners. Concerning that principle there should be no shadow of doubt, because it is plain to all who know the present conditions of the Nursing world, and who possess sufficient foresight to understand the direction in which professional opinion is trending, that if the harmonious working of medical men and Nurses, which has so happily characterised both professions in the past, is to continue in the future, the relations between the two classes of workers must be distinctly defined.

The next principle, in its way, is almost equally important, namely, that a Nurse should be defined as a person who has passed through a definite curriculum of education and experience, and has satisfied the Board or Council appointed by the Act, that she is possessed of the technical knowledge and personal character necessary to enable her to fulfil efficiently the duties devolving upon a trained Nurse. Upon these two principles, hinge the future success and usefulness of the Nursing profession in this country. And it might even be said, without exaggeration, that the action which our Parliament takes on

this matter will guide and direct the Legislatures of the British colonies, and even those of foreign countries in the steps which they take to provide for the better education and discipline of the profession in their respective countries.

The "Nurses' Journal."

WE have just received a copy of the so-called official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association—the *Nurses' Journal*. Under the editorship of Miss de Pledge we have ceased to expect much either of accuracy, of interest, or even of common sense, in this periodical, and we are therefore not surprised at the misrepresentations which are made, or at the partisan tone which characterises it.

The fact that Mr. Brudenell Carter made a lengthy personal attack upon ourselves in the May issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, and that our answer has been excluded from the present issue, is sufficient evidence of the "conspicuous fairness" with which Miss de Pledge and the Hon. Officers of the Association conduct this official publication.

It is quite a journalistic innovation that one member of the Association should be permitted to attack another in a *quarterly* publication; and that when after three months the attacked had an opportunity of reply, her answer should be submitted to her assailant and his permission sought for its insertion! The reply has not appeared, and the gentleman who had the courage to attack a woman has evidently not insisted upon her being permitted to defend herself. In our humble judgment Miss de Pledge and the Editorial Committee have placed themselves, by their action in inserting the attack upon us and suppressing our defence, in a very untenable and indefensible position. The Editorial Committee (the six Hon. Officers, Miss de Pledge and Dr. Coupland) have taken upon themselves to exclude our letter upon the flimsy subterfuge that it "contains references to others of a too personal nature to justify its insertion in the official organ of the Association."

In our reply we refuted Mr. Carter's statements, and it is now clearly proved that the persons who insert cowardly and misleading attacks upon women in what purports to be the "official organ of their Association," *dare* not insert a reply which contains the truth.

We intend to deal with the contents of the *Nurses' Journal* in our next issue, and have no doubt that our answer to Mr. Brudenell Carter's attack will in due time receive ample publicity.

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