

“Conspicuous Fairness.”

A LIVELY discussion is going on in the medical press on the burning question of the very necessary reform of the General Medical Council, connected of course, with the coming election of Direct Representatives on to that body, and the correspondence in the *Lancet* between Professor Horsley and Mr. R. Brudenell Carter, is very pretty reading. The latter gentleman, with his notorious capacity for invective, stigmatises the arguments of his opponents as “balderdash,” to which Professor Horsley replies:—“Mr. Carter, in his letter to you (the *Lancet*) of the 8th inst., writing in defence of the General Medical Council, first insults his professional brethren, the general practitioners, next misrepresents the terms of the Medical Act, 1858, and finally, after exposing some of the ridiculous points in Dr. Alderson’s election address, indulges himself by styling, without offering reasons, the views of Dr. Drage and myself upon the undue powers of the President of the General Medical Council as ‘balderdash.’ As to the insults and remarks on direct representation, the profession will merely note them as peculiarly characteristic of Mr. Carter’s method, and put them aside since, being only the representative of the Apothecaries Hall, he cannot be adequately held responsible for his utterances.” Professor Horsley then proceeds to accuse Mr. Carter of flinging some mud and then running away.

Professor Horsley may at least congratulate himself that with such an antagonist, owing to the well-established code of journalistic honour, he has the right of reply in the medical press. It is only in the so-called official organ of the Royal British Nurses’ Association, the *Nurses’ Journal*, under the editorship of Miss De Pledge, that Mr. Brudenell Carter is permitted to “fling mud” at a woman, and that her reply refuting his aspersions and arguments is suppressed by the Editor and the Journal Committee.

Parkstone Nursing Home.

THE Misses Mabel and Kathleen Waterman, R.B.N.A., trained at the London Homœopathic Hospital, have opened a Nursing Home for delicate and invalid children at Parkstone, Dorset. The Home, Langdon House, faces the sea, is situate on the outskirts of Bournemouth, near Branksome Woods, and, as a health resort, is a more bracing spot than Bournemouth.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE August number of the *Nurses’ Journal* furnishes another proof of the extraordinary manner in which the affairs of the Royal British Nurses’ Association are at present being conducted, and the urgent necessity for a change being made in that management if the members are to obtain even the most ordinary measure of justice. As we

have before pointed out, the *Journal* now represents the views of Miss De Pledge, of one other member, and of the six officials of the Association, instead of being the unbiassed report of the proceedings of the Corporation.

Miss De Pledge now, for example, makes a most unaccurate and misleading statement. She declares that the assertion that the “Association is practically bankrupt” was groundless, and that the Treasurer “had no difficulty in repelling it.” We do not credit Miss De Pledge with the possession of any accurate knowledge of the subject, but ignorance is no justification for officially misleading the members on this most important matter. The Association has no reserve fund, and it is some hundreds of pounds in debt. It has, during the past year, spent over £800 more than its reliable income. These facts are carefully kept back from the members, and even the criticisms made at the Annual Meeting have been deliberately suppressed by Miss De Pledge in the Report of that important gathering, which she has published in the official organ of the Association.

Miss De Pledge carries her characteristic inaccuracy even into the titular distinction which she ascribes to Sir James Crichton Browne, and into describing the late Sir J. Russell Reynolds as a member of the *Council* of the Association. As we showed last week, she and her fellow-officials admitted into the May number of the *Nurses’ Journal* a personal attack upon ourselves from the pen of Mr. Brudenell Carter, and have not dared to insert, in the recent issue, our reply to that attack. Such conduct requires no comment to secure for it the condemnation of all honourable men and women.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)