

MR. HENRY C. BURDETT is a perennial source of amusement to the many people to whom he makes himself obnoxious, because he is so deliciously devoid of any sense of humour. He is an official of the Stock Exchange, and edits a paper which he makes desperate efforts to pretend is a "medical journal," and year after year, the more he pretends, the more do medical men laugh. But Mr. Burdett cannot see the joke. Appended to the Stock Exchange quotations of medicine, is a collection of advertisements, and a page or two of paragraphs which often consist of Nursing news which appeared a few weeks or months previously in this journal. And this our comic contemporary calls a "Nursing Mirror," presumably because it reflects Mr. Burdett's reflections—and very entertaining they often are. Now, as every one in the Nursing world knows, poor Mr. Burdett is painfully jealous of the NURSING RECORD, and we quite admit that the success of this journal must be aggravating to its less influential competitors; but having no sense of humour he cannot refrain from exhibiting his feelings week after week by abusing us personally, or our journal. When he becomes scurrilous our solicitors deal with him; when he is only abusive we laugh with others at the very transparent Mirror. Just at present, he is unable to control his pen because he finds that advertisements of posts in the NURSING RECORD produce crowds of applicants. Of course they do, and we hope the Advertisement Manager of the RECORD will in future widely circulate Mr. Burdett's testimony to its usefulness to advertisers.

Mrs. WATSON'S "Some Remarks on Modern Nurses," in the *National Review*, are worth reading, because they distinctly demonstrate the necessity that, above all things, Nurses should be gentlewomen—and these are to be found in all ranks of life, where the nature is refined and cultured by self-sacrifice and control. Manners which are merely buoyant in the home circle become boisterous in the ward, in contrast with sickness; and a cloak and veil should at all times be worn discreetly if it is not to become an anomaly.

There is no doubt that the "guinea pig" system is untenable in a modern Training School, where there should be absolute equality amongst the pupils, and the system of promotion by purchase, to which we have so often alluded, is altogether indefensible. All these anomalies are bound to continue until the uniform curriculum has been organised and established; and, until the Matrons of our Hospitals put aside all personal feeling and co-operate for the common good of their pro-

fession, we fear abuses will flourish in our midst, which bring merited discredit upon Nurses as a class.

BRISTOL Nurses and their friends were entertained last week at a reception given by the Women's Total Abstinence Union, at which upwards of 150 Nurses were present. Music was provided, and Dr. Long Fox gave an interesting lecture on Temperance amongst Nurses.

THERE is an article on the Treatment of Lunacy in the current number of the *Humanitarian*, an admirable magazine which makes for all high ideals and perfections of social conditions. At the present time, public interest is centred in Lunatic Asylums and their attendants, and, no doubt, reform is urgently needed in many departments. But we think the writer of this article, excellent as are some of its views, does not write as an expert when she mentions as a grievance that patients in Asylums are not allowed to bathe without the presence of an attendant. It would be unwise and dangerous to alter this rule, a rule which has also to be often observed in Hospitals.

There is no question that the only means of remedying the evils of Asylums is to make the conditions similar to those of Hospitals, and to offer every inducement to educated gentlewomen to enter Asylums and train there, as they now do in Hospitals. It is hardly possible to agree with the writer of this article when she speaks of the "ignorant and brutal persons usually selected as attendants." That there are many ignorant men and women among Asylum Attendants no one can deny, but they are not selected because of "ignorance and brutality." It is the long hours, the hard and distressing work, and the general conditions of Asylum life which lead to an inferior stamp of individuals being appointed attendants.

THE Cheltenham Board of Guardians must be careful not to incur the criticism of the rate-payers on their lavish expenditure. An application was made by Mrs. Crawley for soup-plates for the Nurses' kitchen. As there were four Nurses she thought four plates would be enough. But, as the *Cheltenham Mercury* remarks, "the Board were in a generous mood, and gave instructions for half-a-dozen plates." It would be interesting to know how the Nurses took their soup before the advent of the soup-plates?

THERE is a sum of £1,700 in the hands of the Gloucester Guardians remaining over from the subscriptions in connection with the District

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