

what downright convincing force Miss Cartwright expresses her views; and how quickly numbers of Nurses have grasped the danger of the suggestion to their future prestige and economic position!

But still there is the Matron and Sister who "doesn't know," and "doesn't think anything matters much," and adds, "You know I am not clever; I leave these questions to others wiser than I am; you see, I have quite enough to do to manage a Hospital of a hundred beds," and we mentally wonder how the hundred beds are managed!

And then there was the jolly, amiable, irresponsible person, who exclaims all in one breath: "Have I signed the Protest?—have I? No; I don't think so. What's it all about? I don't understand the question, but if you say so I'm sure it's all right. When are you coming to tea?—you promised, you know, and you've never been. Came! when? Out was I—oh! surely never; I always come home to tea. Crumpets—muffins. Do you bike?—don't you? oh, you should! fine for Hospital tempers—not half the nagging at Pro's. What do you say?—eh?—what about the Register? Asylum Attendants want our Register!—do they?—how queer! What are they going to do with it? I'm sure they're quite welcome to my share of it. Ha, ha! never was a greedy person—anyway, come to tea and talk it over."

"Muffins and crumpets!" one ejaculates hopelessly, passing on. How many generations will it require to make this type of woman a responsible human being?

But, *apropos* of the *Conversazione*, everyone said it was the very dullest and most depressing party we had ever had; but, for our part, we believe that the general depression reflected the general feeling of the members concerning the serious position to which the officials have reduced the Association, and when Nurses begin to think together, their next step will be to act in common, and then they will attain their ends. May 1897 prove a year of grace and growth.

The Registration of Asylum Attendants as Nurses.

We are glad to observe that Dr. Biernacki's wise letter in the *British Medical Journal* has opened a discussion on the important subject of the Registration of Asylum Attendants as Nurses, without training in a General Hospital. We quote below a reply by the originator of the suggestion—Dr. Outtersson Wood

—to the objections made by Dr. Biernacki, and in which we are bound to say the latter is warmly supported by the large majority of Matrons and Nurses with whom we have discussed the subject.

"THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

SIR,—The best reply I can give to Dr. Biernacki's letter in the *British Medical Journal* of December 12th is to briefly state some of the reasons for admitting properly-trained and qualified mental Nurses into the Royal British Nurses' Association:

First, because they are a large and important body of thoroughly-trained Nurses in their special branch of Nursing. There are already about 2,000 Nurses of both sexes, who, after a rigorous curriculum of Asylum training, practical as well as theoretical, and after examinations of a character in no way inferior to any examinations for Hospital Nurses, are put on the Register of the Medico-Psychological Association. This in itself is a sufficient guarantee of their proficiency. Their qualifications for admission into the Association as Mental Nurses are to be three years' training in a Hospital or Asylum for the insane, containing not less than 40 beds, and that they shall hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association for proficiency in Nursing; and bring certificates of good moral character. A copy of one of the examination papers for the Medico-Psychological Association certificate is printed below to show the high standard of the examinations. The conditions under which they shall be admitted are that they will come in a distinct class of Nurses, with a separate department in the Register, a distinctive badge, and that they shall be enrolled as M.N.R.B.N.A., that is, Mental Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and not M.R.B.N.A., to distinguish them from purely Hospital-trained Nurses.

Secondly, Hospital-trained Nurses without Asylum training will not, and cannot, undertake the Nursing of mental cases. They have had no opportunity of seeing acute and active cases of mania and melancholia, and have no knowledge of the care and management of these difficult and dangerous classes, which must be treated and nursed as well as any other form of disease, and which require special training, education, and experience on the part of the Nurse.

Thirdly, as the position of Matron in a General Hospital, where she can superintend the entire Nursing of the Institution, cannot obtain in an Asylum, where all classes of cases are admitted, owing to the necessity for keeping the male and female patients rigidly separated, the Nursing of the patients is bound to be undertaken by Nurses of both sexes under the direct tuition and training of the Medical Staff. This training is carried on by practical instruction under the male and female chief Nurses and the Medical Staff, and by courses of lectures, and demonstrations of the highest grade bearing especially upon the nature of the cases under treatment.

Fourthly, as the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded for the purpose of affording information and protection to the public by publishing in a Register the qualification of its Nurses, so in a greater degree is it in justice to the public that they should have the means of ascertaining the qualifications and

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