

admit that it is just possible there may be Nurses who know somewhat more about Nursing than do people who do not follow that vocation. And it will, doubtless, surprise him to learn that in Quain's Dictionary of Medicine the article on Nursing was written, many years ago, by a Nurse whose name, probably, will stand higher in History than that of any other contributor to the work.

Mr. Morris, however, appears to object altogether to the education which is at present given to Nurses. He makes statements which are entirely unsubstantiated, and which are such a grave reflection upon Trained Nurses that, as the representative organ of the Nursing profession, we must express our opinion that it is his duty either to prove the assertions in question or to apologise for having libelled a body of working women. Mr. Malcolm Morris deliberately and definitely states that Nurses have "a scarcely concealed contempt for the general practitioner. Even the Hospital physician is made to feel that his attempts to hide his ignorance do not impose on her. If his cases recover, the credit is hers; if they do not, the fault is his."

We are not, of course, aware where Mr. Malcolm Morris obtains his Nurses, nor what opportunities he may possess for learning their opinions of those under whom they work; but so far as his statements refer—as they are clearly intended to refer—to the whole body of Trained Nurses, we have no hesitation in expressing our conviction that Mr. Malcolm Morris has stated that which is not true.

The fact of the matter is that, just at present, there has arisen in the minds of a few persons a curious jealousy of the work performed, and of the position attained, by Trained Nurses; and, chiefly, be it noted, amongst those who have failed in their own profession, there is evinced a growing disposition to sneer and jeer at women who have succeeded in their calling. We can speak the more strongly upon this subject because we have for years pointed out grave defects in the Nursing world. We have, on many occasions during the last ten years, proved that persons who are destitute both of knowledge and of character are yet able, by means of forged testimonials, or by the carelessness of those who employ them, to obtain work as Nurses; and that such women not only bring danger to the sick, but cast discredit upon every member of the Nursing profession. The fault, as we have frequently pointed out,

is largely to be ascribed to the action of those medical men who employ women, to attend upon their patients, concerning whose efficiency and character they have made no adequate enquiry. There can be, as we have frequently shown, no reason for surprise in the fact that such women often prove to be in every way untrustworthy, and that they cause the greatest annoyance to those who have thus carelessly utilised their services; but to blame the whole body of Nurses for the ignorant errors of women who are Nurses in nothing but the assumed title, is as grossly unjust as it is foolish and illogical to argue that because untrained Nurses do harm no woman should be properly educated to perform the responsible duties of Nursing. The leaders of the Nursing profession have, for ten years past, been demanding a uniform system of education for Probationers, and a more efficient system of discipline and control over the whole profession, in order thus to eliminate from their ranks those women who endanger the sick and discredit all their fellow-workers. There have been a few medical men who have objected to Nurses obtaining these reforms, and, therefore, to the public and the medical profession being thus protected. Mr. Morris and a few other gentlemen apparently desire to revert to the style of Nurse in vogue some thirty years ago. They cannot be aware of the simple fact that the modern Nurse has developed in accordance with the laws of supply and demand, and that both the sick public and all successful medical men desire to have the services of these women. It is, in our humble judgment, a most undignified proceeding on the part of Mr. Malcolm Morris to exhibit such an extraordinary fear of Nurses. He will find few amongst his professional brethren who will condescend to follow his example. Meanwhile, Trained Nurses are determined to improve their education by every means in their power, not only that they may be able efficiently to perform their duties to the sick, but also that they may thus become increasingly useful to the medical men under whom they work, and of whom they are always ready to acknowledge that they are only the loyal and willing subordinates.

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