

Public will endorse the judgment of the learned judge.

We are aware that the custom, which in the present case gave rise to this action, is one which obtains in connection with many Nursing Homes; but it must be remembered that many of these Homes are entirely commercial speculations, in which the marketable commodity is the nurse, and in common with other business speculations, they must run the gauntlet of competition.

If the nurse choose to sever her connection with the Home, after she has fulfilled her agreement with it, she is at perfect liberty to do so, and it seems rather arbitrary that she should be debarred from nursing in a particular locality. This does not, of course, apply to anyone who has sold the goodwill of a Nursing Home. In such a case a *quid pro quo* is received, and it would undoubtedly be unfair to the purchaser should the former owner open another Home in its immediate vicinity, therefore, in such instances, the same rules hold good as are found necessary in selling the goodwill of a medical practice; but the question of the justice of prohibiting nurses from working in a given area, is an ethical one which we should be glad to ventilate in the NURSING RECORD.

#### FORD v. SHARROCK.

In the Sheriff's Court at Leeds, on the 4th inst., Miss Louisa Ford, a trained nurse, claimed £500 damages against Mr. Walter Sharrock, a member of the Board of Management of the Dewsbury Infirmary, where the plaintiff had been employed. Differences arose between the matron and Miss Ford, and resulted in the latter leaving. Subsequently the defendant, it was stated, wrote anonymous letters to the local papers, alleging improper conduct against the plaintiff, who was awarded £100 damages.

It must be remembered that now that nursing has been raised to the rank of a skilled calling, the professional status of a nurse is a possession having its monetary value. If this status be maliciously attacked, the nurse has redress in a court of law. Considering the number of nurses who have lately had cause to take actions at law, it is a matter for congratulation that they possess this power of redress.

#### Appointments.

MISS ADA PRITCHARD has been appointed Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association. We regret that we are unable to announce the qualifications which entitles this lady to fill this most responsible position.

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



FRIENDS of the Sir Julian Goldsmid Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton will be glad to hear that it has received its first bequest, the late Mr. W. H. King, of Sloane Mansions, London, having left a sum of £200 to this institution. It will be remembered that when the Home was opened in 1891 the beautiful drawing-rooms were furnished by

her friends "In memory of Harriet Manson King," the young and deeply lamented wife of Mr. W. H. King, and niece of the hon. secretary. We acknowledge this legacy with gratitude, whilst deeply deploring the loss of a kindly friend.

WE are not surprised that stress is laid upon the suggestion of the officers of the Association of Asylum Workers to provide a "Home of Rest and Nursing" for their members, and as the Nurses' Home at Brighton has been such a great success we shall be glad to afford any information concerning the organisation of such a Home, which may be wished for, should it be considered desirable, by those anxious to afford rest and recreation, amidst healthy surroundings, for Asylum Workers.

ONE hundred and twenty-three midwives have passed the January examination of the London Obstetrical Society. We hope many of these ladies are primarily trained nurses. It is computed that the fees for these examinations bring in an income to the Obstetrical Society of something near £600 per annum. We could wish that some of this money went direct to improve the education of nurse midwives. Surely smaller fees might satisfy the few examiners, who are mostly men making large incomes from obstetric practice in the metropolis.

THE following kind letter has appeared in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* from Miss C. G. Loch, Lady Superintendent Indian Army Nursing Service:—

SISTER MAGDALEN FUND.

"DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry to see by the NURSING RECORD of November 7th that dear old

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