

She is just as happy when she has stolen bits of paper as she would be were she to purloin diamonds of the finest water.

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Another patient, an old lady of 70, had a newspaper and pieces of brown paper which she cut into small, perfect squares. How she could do this is difficult to understand, as all scissors are forbidden, and her door was closely shut. Placing them on little piles, separately, she put a stitch through to hold them in place, as our grandmothers did of old when they pierced patchwork quilts. Or she sewed bits of old lace and edging together, and this proudly donned as a head-dress when going to dinner.

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WE hope that there will be a good audience on the evening of the 21st inst., when the Matrons Council meets in Conference on the interesting subject of the organisation of Nurses' Alumnæ Associations. These Societies are now being formed by the graduate Nurses in connection with all the leading Training Schools in the States, and one of the best features of these Societies is the Sick Fund for members, which usually forms one of the objects of membership. One of our American colleagues writes us: "We American Nurses consider it a *duty* as well as a pleasure to co-operate to help those of our graduates who, through sickness or other misfortune, are in need of pecuniary help. We subscribe in some instances to a general fund for the purpose, and we augment this fund by justifiable means—by subscriptions from members of our families, and from sales of work, &c. A delightful gathering was lately held by the members of the New York Hospital in the Administration Building, where tea (real English breakfast tea) and chocolate, salads, sandwiches, cakes and fruit were on sale, and all sorts of things were sold for the benefit of the Sick Fund; dollies in uniform, candies and cut flowers being easily disposed of. We Nurses do not look forward to a destitute old age, as we have means of investing our savings, which we hope will make us independent when past work, and look upon the scale of fees obtainable in England as a terrible blot on the economic condition of its women workers. Surely a labourer is worthy of her hire!"

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MR. H. C. BURDETT, in a leading article on the case of Breay *v.* Browne, makes the grandiloquent if somewhat inaccurate statement—"To the Executive of the Royal British Nurses' Association we have ever been prepared to accord our fullest sympathy." This piece of intelligence is quite unnecessary to those who know anything about the "true inwardness" of the present management of the Association.

But the little word "ever" would doubtless have been omitted had Mr. H. C. Burdett a more retentive memory. There are still members of that Executive Committee who remember the description given of them by Mr. Burdett during the period in which he vainly attempted to smash up the Association through the medium of his paper, and who remember his graphic description of themselves as "the scum of the Nursing profession"; "perhaps too late Nurses will realise, and the public and the authorities of the Training Schools will indeed know what meaning to attach to the words "Member of the British Nurses' Association," namely, "a Nurse who has taken refuge in it to obtain a pseudo-respectability, because she could not get it elsewhere"; and again Mr. Burdett regrets "very much to hear that any Institutions have shown so little regard for their Nurses' welfare as not to have used every effort in their power to prevent their joining so hurtful an Association."!

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We have no doubt Mr. Burdett's friends on the Executive Committee estimate his "sympathy" at its true value, and will make use of it; for ourselves we consider his present tactics in connection with the Association even more undignified than his open and malicious attacks upon it in times past.

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WITH that meddlesome interference in other people's affairs for which he has now become proverbial, Mr. H. C. Burdett is offering us weekly, in his paper, his opinion concerning the manner in which we conduct the affairs of the NURSING RECORD. No doubt we ought to feel proportionately grateful, but we must decline to receive our Nursing ethics from the Stock Exchange. Mr. H. C. Burdett objects to gratuitous advertisement (we should not have thought it), but surely he does not mean to infer that the large displayed advertisements which constantly appear in the columns of his paper—relating, for instance, to the unrivalled benefits to be derived by Nurses from joining the Royal National Pension Fund, of which he is Deputy Chairman—are paid for? Or that the urgent appeals for funds from charitable institutions such as the London Hospital, of which he is a Life Governor, which appear weekly in his paper are a source of income to that publication? Surely such cannot be the case? We ask Mr. H. C. Burdett for a plain answer to these questions, and we hope we may get it. At any rate, we hasten to assure our readers that Mr. Burdett's constant advertisement of the NURSING RECORD, and especially of the great advantages which it offers to advertisers, are *not* paid for. We await Mr. Burdett's reply.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)