

THE BOGEY NURSE.

THE *Practitioner* devotes two columns to inspiring terror in the minds of gentlemen in general practice concerning a bogey termed the "New Nurse," as evolved from the inner consciousness of the Editor. He writes, alluding to general practitioners: "They have of late years been learning to lean more and more on trained Nurses, and the result is that they are becoming more and more unwilling, and at the same time less capable, of rendering their patients many services which their fathers looked upon as within the province of a doctor. Already one hears complaints of operators preferring the assistance of a Nurse to that of the family doctor. There is a real danger of the qualified practitioner being gradually and insidiously ousted from his place, and of the sick-room being taken possession of by the New Nurse working under a consultant and, in many cases not improbably alone. The evolution of an inferior order of female practitioners would then be complete."

We considered it our duty on a previous occasion to criticise the policy of the Editor of the *Practitioner* in attempting to sow dissension between medical men and Nurses, and we think that this policy, inspired as it evidently is by ungenerous feeling, and not by a desire for the public good, can have but one result. Conscientious medical men employ thoroughly reliable trained Nurses, because they consider that their directions are thus carried out, and their patients are thus cared for in the most efficient manner.

Such medical men, inspired as they are by a sense of public duty, have yet to make the acquaintance of this bogey—the New Nurse. The Nursing of the sick by thoroughly qualified women has become an accomplished fact. The public has need of them, and so long as there is a public demand, so long will there be a supply. That the editor of a medical paper should pursue a policy depreciating trained Nurses—who, as a class, work most loyally for physicians and surgeons, and who have proved themselves necessary for the comfort and well-being of the sick, even if there may have been instances of individual indiscretion in their ranks—is not only unjust but even short-sighted on his part, for we have no doubt that neither the majority of medical men nor of the general public will endorse the opinions of the Editor of the *Practitioner*.

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Fine, Rich, and Delicious.

Nursing Politics.

UNDER this heading, for the future, will be discussed current topics bearing on the economic and ethical condition of the Trained Nurse—in which we are pleased to observe Nurses are beginning to take a more active interest.

THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS TRAINED NURSES.

As we went to press last week we received a printed letter signed by Miss Georgina Scott, M.R.B.N.A., the late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital, and at present the Superintendent of a private Hospital and Nurses' Institution in Bournemouth. The letter is addressed from "Inglewood," Poole Road, Bournemouth, and was posted in the West End of London, and we have before us proof that Miss Scott has had access to the Roll of Addresses of members at the office of the Association. We may therefore conclude that her document has been issued with the knowledge and tacit consent of the Hon. Officers of the Association. We can only express the hope that the ten pounds which must have been expended upon the printing and issue of this circular to all the members of the Association will not be defrayed out of the funds of the Association. The addresses of members having been open to the inspection of Miss Scott establishes a precedent of which we do not doubt other members of the Association will avail themselves during the forthcoming controversy on the vital question, to trained Nurses, of whether male and female Asylum Attendants, without training in a General Hospital, shall be admitted to membership, and enrolled on the Register by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The following is Miss Scott's letter:—

"DEAR MADAM,—Having received a letter with regard to the admission of Mental Nurses into the Royal British Nurses' Association, signed by 'Sophia G. Wingfield,' which is, in my opinion, unfair, inaccurate and misleading, I think it right it should be corrected.

If you will be good enough to read the enclosed, you will see that the admission of 'Untrained Asylum Attendants' was never contemplated, and that the interests of Nurses are in no way endangered. In fact, although the report in favour of the admission of Mental Nurses was unanimously adopted by the General Council, the details of the scheme, as far as I am aware, have not even yet been laid before the Executive Committee, and the final judgment must rest with the Association.

Yours faithfully,  
 GEORGINA SCOTT, M.R.B.N.A.  
 Late Matron Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

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