

subject of nursing frauds. The deplorable inertia and culpable stupidity with which the press and the people have hitherto dealt with this question of vital importance, when it appeared merely a question of professional justice to trained nurses, have resulted in gigantic nursing frauds, of which the public have become the victims. "Ings House" is merely a specimen of "Nursing Home," of which great numbers abound in the West End of London, all more or less "run" by unprofessional women (often financed by men), and generally kept going by a Pharisaical philanthropy on the part of medical men who can thus help to clothe and feed the widow and the orphan of a deceased colleague at the expense of their unfortunate patients. It is high time that the public demanded the professional qualifications of the Superintendent of the Home, in whose care they place their nearest and dearest; and we are glad to see on some of the cards of terms in relation to Nursing Homes, that the professional qualifications of the ladies who are responsible for the nursing of the patients admitted, are clearly stated.

WE commend the following expression of opinion from "Vera's" notes in last week's "*Lady's Pictorial*":—

"The practical common-sense of Princess Christian in encouraging the registration of nurses, and the consequent hall-marking of them, as it were, is proved almost daily. Never was the necessity of nurses being in some way placed above suspicion greater than it is today. With some so-called nurses making their nominal profession a cloak for absolute villainies, and others running nursing homes of a very unsatisfactory character, and others yet apparently assuming the nurse's uniform in order to give them a field for flirtation and general frivolity—not always without an ulterior aim—it is highly desirable not only that the public should be protected against the pseudo-nurse, but also that the thousands of devoted, honourable, skilful, and hard-working women who follow nursing assiduously and conscientiously as their life-work, should be shielded from the disrepute into which these sham and unsatisfactory nurses bring a noble profession. The very name of nurse is beginning to be regarded with suspicion and dislike by the general public, and I hope that the strongest possible measures will be taken, whenever opportunity occurs, to prevent an honourable and useful vocation from falling into contempt."

WE notice in the current number of the *American Nursing World* a suggestion that superintendents of training schools should be admitted as honorary members to medical societies, and that the co-operation of medical men should be invited, in the deliberations of the associations and societies of nurses and superintendents at their regular meetings.

From our personal observation of the results which follow the introduction of a medical element into a nurses' association, we think that the American superintendents have acted with wisdom in organising their professional association on its present lines, and we should view with regret any alteration in its constitution. It must always be remembered that medical men are the employers of nurses, and that in any society in which the employers of labour, and the labourers, are associated, the tendency is for the employers not to co-operate with, but to dictate to, the employed.

We are quite of opinion that it is desirable that societies of nurses should have the approval and patronage of medical men, but we think that they should be managed by the nurses themselves, otherwise the position of medical men in them will probably become one of absolute control.

MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK is contributing some valuable papers to the provincial press upon "The Best Openings for our Boys and Girls." An interesting article on "Nursing as a Profession for Women" recently appeared, and contains some truisms which nurses will do well to note. After showing that the profession of nursing is at present overcrowded, and that, therefore, it is only advisable probably for about one woman in fifty to enter it at the present day, Miss Black advises any woman who does intend to qualify as a nurse to "take the completest training in the best school, and learn her profession from the smallest and humblest early detail to the latest possible improvements, and that she should then direct her mind to raising that profession, and to widening its field."

We are glad to observe that Miss Black considers the now almost universally accepted term of three years as the shortest time in which a thorough training can be given. She says, "There are hospitals which consider a nurse trained in two years; there are even some institutions where one year's work will win a certificate; but no woman who means to be really a thoroughly trained nurse should content herself with less than three years' training."

We observe with satisfaction also, that Miss Black speaks of the duties which the trained nurse owes to her profession, of the obligations which are incumbent upon her, of striving to raise and widen it, as beyond all question binding upon her. She instances as one of the reasons why the fees obtainable by trained nurses are so small, the fact that "most nurses are women of the middle class, who have hitherto in all economic matters been more

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