

the mismanagement of the Association has been extreme and deplorable since the matrons who founded it ceased to have any part therein. To show how seriously the Association has suffered through this mismanagement, it is only necessary to recall the fact to which attention has already been called, that instead of more than 2,000 subscribing members, as it formerly possessed, the Association last year was only assisted by 1,285 nurse members.

Then again, it is notorious that in former years nurses joined the Association in large numbers from the leading Nurse Training Schools in the Kingdom. From St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, University College, and the leading Provincial Schools the flow of nurse members into the ranks of the Association was steady and eminently satisfactory. Now, it is equally notorious that a nurse from any of these Institutions hardly ever joins the Association; and a great majority of the new nurse members come from one small General Hospital. The significance of this fact cannot be exaggerated, and it proves more forcibly than anything else could do, how the Association has lost caste and prestige; seeing that the best class of trained nurses thus decline to seek its membership.

It is, unhappily, a common expression, now, that it is no credit to be a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and we have heard of many hospital matrons and sisters who have discarded their Badges—ashamed of the medal they were formerly proud to wear. For this disrepute, the present officials must be held responsible, and we are glad to learn that the public are also taking that view.

The injury that has been done to the Association has extended to the whole Nursing profession; because thousands of well trained nurses for whose benefit the Association was founded, but who feel themselves unable to join its ranks under the present management, are being thereby deprived of advantages which the State intended them to possess. They are, therefore, directly injured by the present mismanagement; and this fact is becoming so apparent to them that we understand many are preparing to petition Her Majesty the Queen, and the Houses of Parliament, on the ground that they are being deprived of benefits to which they are entitled, but of which they cannot avail themselves, while the present misgovernment of the

Association lasts. The injustice and tyranny to which the members are exposed, are quite sufficient explanation for their decision to abstain from membership; but as the whole Nursing profession, as well as the public, are being injured, their right of appeal for justice is beyond all question or dispute.

Annotations.

WOULD LISTER APPROVE?

THE Hungarian Government permits women to study medicine if they so desire, but one of the professors of the University of Budapest has recently proclaimed that he has something to say in the matter. Of the five women now studying medicine there, one has a remarkably fine head of hair, which the professor of surgery says must come off before she can be permitted to attend his clinics. The reason that he gives for his prohibition is that "wool carries infection." If wool carries infection then it is only logical that doctors must do hospital work in cotton, or at least washing clothes, and wear no more beards.

MALE NURSES.

It has been stated by a contemporary with regard to male nurses that "during the last three or four years the demand for them has been greatly on the increase," and that "competent male nurses have had to undergo a very thorough training." We desire, therefore, to point out that there is, so far as we are aware, no General Hospital in Great Britain where male nurses can receive training. In our military hospitals it is notorious that the experience of the orderlies, and the training received by them, is of a most fragmentary description, the nursing duties of the men being combined with military drill, as well as with those of gardeners, window cleaners, &c. It is, in fact, imperative that the nursing arrangements of our military hospitals should be re-organised, in order that the sick soldier may receive care as skilled as that which is provided for the sick civilian. At the National Hospital, training is given to a certain number of men, but it must be remembered that this is a hospital where only special diseases are treated, and which cannot therefore be held to provide a thorough training. We have in previous issues expressed our belief that nursing is essentially women's work, and that though certain cases, such as

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