

catheter; and one man, who had recently left a large asylum, admitted he had never seen either.

"Is it not possible to do something to inaugurate a system of instruction, both for male and female attendants, which would enable them to hold their own when employed as private nurses?"

"Most hospital-trained nurses can use both feeding tube and catheter. In asylums, where the opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of their use is, or ought to be, greater, the reverse order prevails.

"I remain, Sir, yours truly,

"M. C. WALSHE, Manager.

"Male Nurses' (Temperance) Co-operation,  
"10, Thayer Street, London, W."

We should like to ask Dr. Outterson Wood, and those who are supporting him in his attempt to force upon the Royal British Nurses' Association asylum attendants as fully trained nurses, what they have to say to these letters. We have heard a good deal about the high standard required by the Medico-Psychological Society, and it has been contended, long and loudly, that the possessors of this certificate are fully qualified for registration by the Royal British Nurses' Association. Apparently, the altitude of the standard differs with the point of view.

"There are none so blind as those who won't see," otherwise we might hope that these letters might have the effect of opening the eyes of those gentlemen who would have us believe, that their sole object in joining the Royal British Nurses' Association was that they might help to raise the standard of nursing.

### Legal Matters.

#### A NURSE COMMITTED ON A CHARGE OF ATTEMPTING TO DEFRAUD THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

JANET OWEN, aged twenty-eight, a district nurse, who is said to have been connected with various religious agencies in London, where she was arrested, and who, at one time, was an accepted candidate for foreign missionary work, was recently committed for trial by the Dolgelly magistrates on a charge of attempting to defraud the Great Western Railway Company of £30 by a fictitious claim for lost luggage. It would be interesting to know if Janet Owen has any aliases, and if we should recognize her better under another name.

We are aware that some of our readers take exception to our practice of drawing attention to the scandals in connection with the nursing profession; we do so on the principle—which those who are keen surgical nurses, at least, will understand—that it is not advisable to apply a plaster and a bandage to a wound when deep-seated mischief is going on. A good surgeon under these circumstances will first lay open the wound and investigate and remove the evil which is at the root of the trouble. Then a satisfactory result may be anticipated.

### The Nursing in Workhouses Order, 1897.

WE reprint below the Order issued by the Local Government Board, to the Guardians of the Poor, on the subject of Nursing in Workhouses, as we think it will be of interest, to record the first Order made by this body, with respect to nursing, for fifty years:—

"To the Guardians of the Poor of the several Poor Law Unions for the time being in England and Wales,

"And to all others whom it may concern:—

"Whereas by certain general and other Orders the Poor Law Commissioners, the Poor Law Board, and the Local Government Board have made Rules and Regulations with regard to the government of the Workhouses of the said several Poor Law Unions, the nursing of the sick poor relieved therein, and as to the appointment of persons to certain offices therein, including the office of Nurse, and the qualification, remuneration, and duties of such persons;

"And whereas it is expedient that further provision should be made in the matter as hereinafter mentioned:

"Now therefore, we, the Local Government Board, in pursuance of the powers given to us by the statutes in that behalf, do hereby order that from and after the twenty-ninth day of September, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven (hereinafter referred to as 'the commencement of this Order'), the following Regulations shall, except in so far as we may assent to a departure therefrom, be in force in the said several Poor Law Unions:—

"Article I.—(1.) Notwithstanding anything contained in any of the Orders above referred to, no pauper inmate of the Workhouse shall be employed to perform the duties of a Nurse in the Sick or Lying-in Wards of the Workhouse, or be otherwise employed in nursing any pauper in the Workhouse who requires nursing.

"(2.) No pauper inmate of the Workhouse shall be employed as an attendant in the Sick or Lying-in Wards of the Workhouse, or upon any pauper in the Workhouse who requires nursing, unless such inmate shall be approved by the Medical Officer of the Workhouse for the purpose, and shall act under the immediate supervision of a paid officer of the Guardians.

"Article II.—No person shall be appointed by the Guardians to the office of Nurse or Assistant Nurse in the Workhouse without having had such practical experience in nursing as may render him or her a fit and proper person to hold such office.

"Provided that this Article shall not apply in the case of a female Assistant Nurse in a Work

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)