

You may be perfectly certain the matter will not be allowed to rest till the question is definitely settled, as it will be, by the main body of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and not by a mere handful of agitators, whose only object would seem to be to stir up strife among the members of the Association, and who are using the question of the registration of mental nurses for that purpose,

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

T. OUTTERSON WOOD, M.D.

Member of the General Council, Executive Committee,
and Registration Board of the Royal British Nurses'
Association.

To the Editor of "The Asylum News."

DEAR SIR,—Thanks for your courtesy in letting me see above letter. Dr. Outterson Wood starts with a bold assumption, but concludes with an acknowledgment that the question is not definitely settled. Until it is settled, I prefer to retain my own conclusions on the matter. Perhaps Dr. Wood will also allow me to hold by my opinion—that the less mental nurses have to do with the Royal British Nurses' Association, the better.

As I am not a "notoriety-seeking agitator," I prefer to sign myself simply—

THE WRITER OF THE PARAGRAPH.

Whoever "The Writer of the Paragraph" may be, she shows her common sense in advising her colleagues to have nothing to do with an Association the founders of which are subjected to the vulgar abuse of medical nonentities, who thrust themselves into the Nurses' Association when it had succeeded in gaining its Royal Charter, and who without any experience in, or knowledge of, nursing as a profession, propose to deprive trained nurses, and the public, of the benefit and protection of registration under the Charter, by placing men and women on the hospital trained nurses' register who have never worked in a general hospital ward at all.

In attempting thus to depreciate the trained nurses' register, Dr. Outterson Wood must not imagine for a moment, however abusive he becomes, that he will carry out his most unjust proposition without the most determined opposition upon the part of those women who founded the British Nurses' Association for the benefit of trained nurses and the public. If Dr. Outterson Wood requires scope for his energies, let him propose the depreciation of his own profession; we can imagine the warm encouragement he will receive from his professional brethren; but, once for all, let him cease his ignorant and mischievous interference in the concerns of trained nurses, concerning which he knows nothing, and, by his own confession, cares less. The British Nurses' Association managed its own affairs with some satisfaction to its educated members before the advent of Dr. Outterson Wood, and we feel sure that it can spare him to devote all that abundant leisure which he seems to possess, to the affairs of asylum attendants.

Nursing in Sydney.

THERE is nothing like publicity for getting to the truth of things—so with the discussion in the New South Wales Assembly on the question of an eight-hours day for nurses, the colonial journalists aroused themselves to a man on this question, and from personal intercourse with the matrons and nurses of the important hospitals have been able to review the question in the press in an expert manner, which, we venture to think, will enable their readers to know more of the inner working of nurse-training schools and of the opinions of the nurses themselves than they have ever known before, and all such knowledge must prove ultimately for the public good. Sydney is particularly fortunate in the two ladies who superintend the training of nurses at its two largest hospitals. Miss Gould of the Sydney Hospital, and Miss McGahey of the Prince Alfred Hospital, have gained for themselves brilliant reputations as organizers and administrators, and the women who enter these institutions for training are indeed fortunate that their professional education is presided over by matrons whose example is the greatest incentive to professional proficiency that a pupil can have. We have had forwarded for our inspection several photographs of the beautiful wards of the Prince Alfred Hospital, and groups of nurses, some of which are here reproduced, as we know how deeply interested NURSING RECORD readers are in the progress made in our colonies and abroad in all things nursing. In each of the ordinary wards, which contain thirty-two beds, at the Prince Alfred Hospital, the nursing staff by day consists of a sister, charge nurse, ward or assistant nurse, and two probationers, and by night one staff nurse and one assistant. In the special wards one nurse attends to two patients; in all serious cases one nurse is deputed to take charge of each patient. We learn from looking at the nursing staff—even the most recently joined probationer—there is nothing to bear out the assertions, made by the "labour" politicians of broken health through overwork. They all seem to be happy. As a matter of fact, a nurse generally becomes stronger after the initial work is over and the strangeness wears off. At "The Prince Alfred" the surroundings and quarters are admirable. There are handsomely laid out grounds and a fine tennis court, so that a nurse with an hour or so off duty can enjoy herself. Their bedrooms are cosy, and their sitting-room handsomely furnished. They have a fine library and reading-room, and a most pleasantly situated dining-room. Here, too, the domestic work is done by housemaids. Briefly stated, the work of the nurse, taking the year through, does not average more than ten hours a day. She gets time off every month, and a substantial holiday in the year. The discipline is strict, necessarily, so; but there is none of that white slavery

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