

other members of the staff of that Institution, have only recently been brought to the knowledge of the public, but the result can be appreciated when the figures, which have just been published, of the entries at the Metropolitan Medical Schools are observed. The average number of entries at the Middlesex Hospital, of students entering for the full curriculum, for the nine years, 1888 to 1896, was $39\frac{2}{3}$; the number who have entered this October IS ONLY FOURTEEN; a most significant and noteworthy fall, and one which admits of the sole explanation that the medical profession and the public have no excessive confidence in the management of this School. This fact, indeed, becomes even more apparent when the figures in question are more closely examined. It is, perhaps, needless to point out that the reputation of a Medical School depends almost entirely on the reputation of its teaching staff. If this latter stands high, pupils flock to the School. If their prestige is small, the School will fall in numbers, year by year. Let us see then what reputation with the medical profession and the public, the Medical School of the Middlesex Hospital possesses, as proved by some indisputable figures.

Knowing how some of its members have mismanaged the affairs of the Nurses' Association, these figures do not cause us the smallest surprise, for they only prove how these gentlemen have administered the affairs of the Medical School with which they have been entrusted. Dividing the nine years into three terms, of three years each, the following infinitely significant figures are found. For the first three years, 1888, 1889, 1890, the average number of new entries of full students at this Hospital was 51. For the second three years, 1891, 1892, 1893, the average diminished to 42. And for the third period, 1894, 1895, 1896, the average was only 23. The still further reduction, therefore, in this year's entries to 14 may be considered to be only a part of the process of decay and failure which has been in progress during the last decade; but it is noticeable that the fall is greater than might have been expected from the record of previous years. These figures, we should add, are taken from the official lists published in the *British Medical Journal*, each October, for the last ten years, and, therefore, they are beyond all dispute or question.

The moral which we would draw is a simple one, and we commend it to the careful

consideration of our readers. The tactics pursued by Mr. Fardon, with the assistance of his colleagues at the Middlesex Hospital, in the Royal British Nurses' Association, have consisted not only in mismanaging the affairs of the Association, but in excluding from the General Council and Executive Committee the ladies who took the most active part in founding the Association, and every medical man who has expressed an opinion adverse to their methods of management. It is not unfair to point out, therefore, that in the management of the affairs of their Medical School, the Middlesex Hospital staff have achieved as little success and popularity as that which they have gained in the Nurses' Association.

Annotations.

WISDOM.

WE listened with much satisfaction to a remark which fell from Miss Gibson, the matron of the New Infirmary, Birmingham, at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, to the effect that the matrons of hospitals and infirmaries had so far taken but little part in the organization of their profession, and to the opinion which she expressed, that the busy life, led of necessity by those heads of training schools who do their duty to the particular institutions with which they are connected, does not absolve them from taking part in the public duties which necessarily devolve upon them by virtue of their office. These are undoubtedly truisms, and the fact that so many matrons have so long stood aside, and ignored their public duties, is one which has been deeply deplored by those of their colleagues who have been impressed with a sense of their own public responsibilities. When the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded, matrons were invited, and even urged, to join it, and leading matrons were offered *ex officio* seats upon its executive committee, an honour of which many have not availed themselves. They have further been invited to join the Matrons' Council, a society in which hospital matrons meet and take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession. Again, many matrons have not availed themselves of the opportunity offered to them, and yet others who joined the Council withdrew, when pressure was brought to bear upon them by those who, well aware that

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