

We would emphasize the degradation which is keenly felt by all English nurses who are enthusiastic as to the honour of their profession, that, owing to the *non possumus* attitude, which is assumed by those responsible for the conduct of business in the professional Association of English Nurses, other countries are, one after another, organizing their nursing schools on lines upon which we shall be compelled eventually to follow. Whereas, had the views and wishes of the nursing profession in this country been consulted, we should have undoubtedly led the way in instituting an efficient nursing curriculum. France, the United States, Canada, Cape Colony, Australia, New Zealand, are all advancing before us, in a way which reflects as much credit upon these nations as it throws discredit upon ourselves. Until quite recently there was no nursing education in France, the work being undertaken almost entirely by religious orders. Again, the incompetent management of the Royal British Nurses' Association has resulted in the Canadian nurses combining with those in the United States rather than, as would otherwise have been the case, with ourselves, and thus the disintegration of the International Union between nurses in the Mother Country and the Colonies has begun. Our Canadian cousins plainly stated, as the reason for their action, that they had watched the conduct of affairs in the Royal British Nurses' Association and they did not like it; they, therefore, preferred to combine with the United States. New Zealand will have nothing to do with us. Miss Farquharson, the able Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, and the Local Honorary Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association in Victoria, has also lately withdrawn from the Association, and so, probably, Australian nurses will cease to be professional unionists. The nursing profession in this country is disorganized, and most assuredly is not advancing; therefore, by all the laws of nature, it is retrograding. England, from having held, in 1894, the proud position of the pioneer in nursing reform and organization, will now be obliged to follow where others lead, a humiliation for which we have undoubtedly to blame those at present in power in the Royal British Nurses' Association. It is noteworthy that, as in this country, so in France, the cry is raised that the nurses are being taught too much. The adverse critics affirm that the term "baccalauréat,"

(the bachelor's degree), is unsuitable for nurses. They consider that exact knowledge of the composition of the blood does not render nurses skilful and alert at the bedside, and it is suggested that papers on anatomy and physiology should be replaced by others on cleanliness and "particular duties." These are old and well worn arguments, but, it may once more be pointed out, that it is quite as important that a nurse should know enough anatomy to understand the danger to a patient suffering from enteric fever, of perforation through the ulcerated intestine, as it is that she should keep him clean; that a nurse who undertakes the "care of women in childbirth" should not be ignorant of the anatomy of the uterus, or she may lose her patient should hæmorrhage set in—when cleanliness will be of very little avail. In like manner, if she knows nothing of the laws of health, and in consequence keeps her patient in an unhealthy, over-heated, and poisonous atmosphere, an intimate acquaintance on her part with "particular duties," whatever this term may include, will not advance the recovery of her patient. It is in the highest degree illogical to assume that because a nurse understands the elements of physiology and anatomy she is therefore uncleanly, or that she is necessarily clean because she is absolutely ignorant of these subjects. The cry of "wolf" is in fact raised for the most part by those who, having but little knowledge themselves, are afraid of others possessing it, and by those who, being well acquainted that "knowledge is power," are desirous of keeping this power out of the hands of the nursing profession.

A TRANSFORMATION.

THOSE who last year read the appalling account, given by the *Times of India*, of the condition of the Arthur Road Hospital, Bombay, cannot fail to appreciate the description, given in the same paper, of this Hospital, on the occasion of a recent visit by Lord Sandhurst. "Everything in the building was spotlessly clean and in excellent order, and it was apparent every care and attention was paid to the suffering inmates. Miss Robinson, the nurse in charge, was the recipient of many congratulations upon the appearance of her charges." Of the Tullai Hospital, we are told, "The same exquisite order and cleanliness were equally conspicuous here—a circumstance which must be put to the credit of Miss Wheatley."

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