

But it is obviously intended to impress the ignorant and the unwary, and it may effect that purpose. Whatever may be the matter with patients, there is, apparently, only one prescription which "Nurse Clark" gives. On the face of it, therefore, the formula is a self-evident instance of arrant quackery, and we consider that it is a grave sign of the times that the person who should thus attempt to delude the public should be alleged to be a "Nurse."

The advertisement, therefore, is chiefly serious because it illustrates a tendency which is undoubtedly growing stronger. Unhappily, nurses are well known to be at present under no professional control, and, as we have frequently shown in these columns, the calling is, therefore, infested by persons who cause both danger to the public and disgrace to well-trained nurses. This advertisement is but another illustration of the manner in which the title of "Nurse" is now exploited, and of the extreme need which consequently exists for a public inquiry into the whole nursing question.

It was bad enough to have ignorant women assuming the title and work of nurses; it was discreditable enough to find persons destitute of moral character, and who had even been imprisoned more than once, obtaining admission both to private houses and public institutions on the strength of forged certificates; it was humiliating enough to the nursing profession to find their uniform pirated by persons engaged as travellers and agents for the sale of patent medicines, and infants' foods, and babies' bottles; and this became a professional disgrace when, as correspondents have reported in these columns, women in the guise of nurses were found to be making house-to-house visitations for the purpose of recommending drugs used for a criminal purpose.

But, to take only the present case, we must point out that, if it were even tacitly sanctioned, that certificated nurses might advertise in the lay press that they would give medical advice and supply quack medicines to those who are, or think themselves to be, suffering from illness, nursing could no longer expect to be recognized as a skilled profession. It can only expect to hold that position if nurses respect themselves and their superior officers—medical men. If nurses assume knowledge they do not possess, they make both themselves and their calling ridiculous. If they act as quacks, they disgrace both.

The evidence for a public inquiry into the nursing question grows, month by month, stronger and stronger, and this fact, we are glad to know, is being impressed upon the minds of many medical men who had previously considered such an investigation unnecessary. We have always discussed this matter from the point of view of the public, because we regard the interests of the sick as most closely associated with the best interests of the nursing profession; and we have, therefore, urged that a full investigation should be made into the present conditions of nursing education and work, so that, on the one hand, the whole extent of the existing evils could be proved, and, on the other, that the best measures of reform could be properly considered.

### Annotations.

#### HOSPITAL ATROCITIES.

THE aspect of modern hospitals is so *charming* that the casual visitor is inclined to think that there is nothing left to be desired in the arrangements made for the well-being of the patients. Those behind the scenes, however, know that there are still at least a few improvements which might, with advantage, be made. Hospital nurses are, proverbially a most conservative race, and "it always has been done" is usually considered a complete vindication of any remnant of barbarism which still remains when an energetic newcomer desires to introduce more modern and sanitary ways. Time-honoured institutions which we venture to think should be abolished are

#### THE WARD BRUSH AND COMB.

Frequently, more especially in accident wards, patients are brought in without any of the necessary toilet accessories. It may be supposed that the hospital authorities, having regard to this emergency, provide the same number of brushes and combs as beds, and that these are thoroughly cleansed in readiness for the newcomer after the departure of the outgoing patient. Not at all! At least, we should be glad to be informed if any hospital has adopted this practice. The "ward brush and comb" is, we think, usually requisitioned on these occasions, and nothing could, to our minds, be nastier except, perhaps, the use of

#### THE WARD TOOTH COMB.

Who has not seen, on what is known as "head night," two nurses start, one on each side of

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