

of reasoning power, sense of justice, truth, and generosity, we can only surmise that the general public will form their own conclusions concerning nurses as a class, and blame the whole profession for the dishonourable conduct of the few, who, instigated merely by expediency, self-interest, and malice, have voted away the liberties, professional and personal independence, and, in consequence, the power of self-government, of the Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom. Cowardly and dishonourable dealing inevitably brings retribution, and it will be many a day before women who are prepared to throw truth and honour to the winds for their own immediate personal advantage, at the dictation of dishonourable leaders, will cease to receive from the public the condemnation and contempt which their proceedings have aroused.

IN GREATER BRITAIN.

One gleam of encouragement reaches us through the gloom of 1897 from the new worlds over sea. Canada, hand-in-hand with the United States, has taken firm stand upon the only enduring basis of organization for any professional body of men or women—self-government by direct representatives of the nurses themselves, elected and delegated by the members of each important nursing school—the dangers of an autocracy being thus prevented.

In New Zealand, Mrs. Neill has naturally declined to form a branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association, upon the restrictive and obsolete foundation suggested by the Executive Committee of our Association, and is proceeding, with the aid of the more liberal-minded leaders of the medical profession in that Colony, to effect organization for nurses upon definite and progressive lines.

Miss Farquharson, of Melbourne, the leader in Victoria in all that is wisest and best for the progress of nursing in that Colony, has resigned her connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association, declining, as all honourable women doubtless will decline, to associate herself any longer with its retrograde and faithless policy, and will, we learn, after further consultation with her colleagues, attempt to form a professional Association of Victorian Nurses which will, we hope, bring about substantial and commendable reforms and organization for the members of our profession in Australia.

In South Africa, the bad faith of the present Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in withholding from Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley, the gold medal awarded to her in 1892 for her signal services to the cause of nursing in Cape Colony, has undermined the confidence of the nurses of South Africa, from one end of the British territory to the other. What was intended as a recognition to this lady of her pioneer nursing work in South Africa, has resulted in nothing less than a gross insult, it having been possible for malicious persons to state that this Gold Medal of Merit was never awarded to her at all.

The national qualities, love of justice, fair play, and honourable dealing, have been for time immemorial the watchwords of the British Constitution. Remove those time-honoured bulwarks, and it is inevitable that an Empire, even one upon which the sun never sets, must crumble into dust, and be lost in that oblivion into which, sooner or later, all worthless things are swept.

Neurasthenia.

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THIS expressive term is of comparatively recent origin, and denotes a condition which is to a large extent modern, both in its intensity and prevalence. The precise meaning of the term is "nerve weakness," and it is an apt description of many typical cases. Just as the cells of an electrical battery are exhausted by use, and require to be recharged before they can be utilized again, so the nerve centres of the human frame require constant replenishment in order to make good the energy spent in the currents of nerve force through which every part of the organism is made to feel and move and perform its share of the body's work. It will, therefore, be easily understood that if, on the one hand, the expenditure of nerve energy is for any reason unusually great, or, on the other, if the recuperation of the nerve power is not complete, the activity of the nervous system must be diminished. Or, to take a more homely illustration—if more water is drawn every day from the cistern in one's house than is poured into the cistern from the waterworks, it is clearly only a question of time when the tank will become empty. In such

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)