

British Nurses' Association. The paper was printed in the November issue of the *Nurses' Journal* of that year, and many nurses who read it hoped that at length they were within measurable distance of the goal which the Association was founded to attain. The aspirations of the Association being publicly expressed, on so high authority, it was the more distressing, therefore, to such of the members as are "steadfast and true" to their original principles, that in January, 1896, Miss Wedgewood, as the delegate of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and Mr. Fardon, the medical honorary secretary of the Association, should publicly support a resolution

"That a legal system of Registration of nurses, is inexpedient in principle, and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit,"

and that the Editorial Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association which had fifteen months before considered that the first "articulate public expression of the aspirations of the Corporation for the establishment of a State-recognized Register" was so important a matter as to call for a lengthy leading article in the *Nurses' Journal*, should in the same Journal of February, 1896, unblushingly assert: "Except by a few ardent enthusiasts, whose impatient advocacy brooks no delays, it is doubtful if our members have ever considered the subject." "Ardent enthusiasts," "the small and turbulent section," "a few notoriety-seeking agitators," "infamous and blackguardly," are a few of the terms which have been contemptuously, or insolently, applied to a Vice-President of the Association, and to matrons of distinction, who have had the temerity to stand by the colours which were "nailed to the mast" when the Association was founded. Hard words break no bones, and those who are fighting for principles can afford to be indifferent to the wavering policy of weak minds which are merely actuated by the pressure and expediency of the hour.

SANCTUARY.

THE question of the duty of hospital authorities in cases which come under their care for treatment, and in which foul play is suspected, or known, has lately been brought into prominence by a rider to the verdict of the jury at an inquest held at Guy's Hospital, in which the jury expressed the hope that "the governors of Guy's Hospital would recognize the necessity of giving information to the police in all cases of a suspicious nature." Dr. Perry, the superintendent of Guy's

Hospital, explained to a representative of the Press after the inquest, that if information, causing an arrest to be made, were given to the police in all cases of attempted suicide, or unpremeditated injury, cases of this description would never be brought to hospitals, and the injured persons would lose their lives for want of skilled attendance. We are inclined to agree with Dr. Perry in his contention that "hospitals were not established as bureaux of information for the police, but to save life where possible." In olden days any person who committed a crime was safe while he took sanctuary in a church, and still earlier precedent for the same thing may be found in the "cities of refuge" of the Jews, long before the Christian Era. It would seem as if in the present day hospitals should take the place of these beneficent institutions, although we doubt whether in a case of murder the law of the land allows anyone cognizant of the perpetrator to remain silent without being an accessory to the crime. In the present case it appears that the unfortunate man, who was stabbed in the back, was intoxicated at the time, and believed that he had been injured by someone in the yard, and not in the room where he lived. Until the woman with whom he lived, therefore, charged herself at Lambeth police court with having committed the crime—"never meaning to hurt him"—the perpetrator remained unsuspected. The question of the duty of hospital authorities in relation to the police is one which might, with advantage, occupy the attention of the Central Hospital Council for London.

WOMEN DOCTORS.

WE observe that Miss Marie Corelli, who has recently been obliged to undergo a severe operation, wishes it to be widely known that the surgeon to whose skill she owes her life is a lady whose reputation in the medical world is well established. Miss Corelli, whose views as to the powers and capacity of her own sex are proverbial, has given practical proof of her belief by placing herself at such a critical time in the hands of a medical woman, and the event has proved that her trust was justifiable. In the same connection it is interesting to observe that Lord Sandhurst has referred, in the most eulogistic terms, to the work of women doctors in India. It is satisfactory to know that in the medical profession, one of the very few in which women are accorded a legal status equal to that possessed by men, they have amply proved their ability to hold their own.

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