

wounded? (3) If "the troops were moving under war conditions" the absence of complete medical, nursing, and ambulance, arrangements can only be described as an extraordinary evidence that our Army is not ready for "war." The public will, we think, agree with the coroner that it is a disgrace that such neglect of our injured soldiers should have happened.

RETRIBUTION.

THE *Lancet*, which has, throughout the struggle in the Royal British Nurses Association during the last four years, been silent upon the justice of the demands of trained nurses for professional status has at last publicly recognized the value of efficient nursing, and the harm done by the imperfectly trained nurses. Speaking on the subject of the abuse of Nursing Charities in connection with the Plaistow Maternity Home, it says:—"Efficient nursing is a great help; the grievance at Plaistow, East Ham, and elsewhere is not against nurses who help, but against nurses, most of them inefficiently trained, who compete against fully-trained nurses, and against the medical practitioners." This, then, is an acknowledgment that what trained nurses foresaw, and strove to guard against, in their own profession, has come to pass. The unqualified and the qualified nurse work side by side; there is no guarantee to the sick, or to the medical profession, that so-called nurses have any professional qualifications; no legal qualification is demanded of a nurse, and there is at present no standard of education defined which it is necessary she should attain before practising her profession. Ten years ago the British Nurses' Association was formed, in the hope of attaining legal registration, of organizing the Nursing profession and eliminating the unqualified and unfit from its ranks. For various reasons there has been bitter opposition to this conscientious effort on the part of the most thoughtful members of the Nursing profession, and it is a regrettable fact that the *British Medical Journal* and the *Lancet* have stood aside, and remained silent while the Nurses' Association has been "nobbled," and that the *NURSING RECORD* has been the only professional journal which has consistently supported the claims of the trained nurse for justice. Now, however, it is becoming evident that injustice cannot be done to nurses without its effects being felt both by the sick

and the medical profession. The interests of the three are, in fact, identical; and one cannot be injured without the others feeling the ill-effects. For instance, if trained nurses had legal status, inefficiently trained nurses would not at the present moment be competing with the medical profession at Plaistow. We hope medical men will take to heart the lesson that it is to their own, and their patients', interest to obtain justice for nurses, and that they will help them to do so when the question of legal registration of nurses is brought—as no doubt it shortly will be brought—before Parliament.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

THE Middlesex Hospital is again open to the sick poor in its neighbourhood, after being completely closed for eight weeks. The excuse given to the Press, that the necessary cleaning has compelled the Committee of the Middlesex Hospital to close this charity for the sixth of a whole year, is preposterous, as none of our great Metropolitan hospitals inflict this terrible hardship on the sick poor. The great structural alterations which have been carried out, at nearly every large hospital in London, during the last decade, have been so carefully arranged that the greater part of each institution has been open all the time. The authorities of Middlesex Hospital have shown themselves completely indifferent to the sufferings incurred to the neighbouring poor by closing the entire institution for two months, and the statement that "those who needed the care and attention usually administered to London sufferers in this institution were compelled to seek treatment elsewhere in the several similar institutions, which, during the temporary closing of the Middlesex, gladly opened their doors to their patients" is not strictly true. All our large hospitals have more than they can do to meet the needs of the sick poor close at hand, and even if some of those, who ought to have found care and treatment at the Middlesex Hospital, were admitted in hospitals at a distance, that, in no way, diminishes the hardship to the sick and very poor of having to seek asylum far from their homes. We cannot believe that the Council of the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund, which gave the Middlesex Hospital an unusually large grant, can possibly approve of the compulsory closing of the hospital for eight weeks at a stretch, and the resulting misery this action must have caused.

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