

Board must sanction the abrogation of his powers. Taking into consideration the "true inwardness" of the nursing scandals at Chelsea, he would be wise at once to demand an investigation into the whole matter by the supreme authority. He is now placed in an impossible position.

ACCORDING to the "West London Press": "Most people who calmly survey the dispute from the outside will wonder what all the fighting is about. Apparently it is a childishly small and pitiable matter whether Miss de Pledge should entertain applications from nurses who desire to serve the Chelsea Guardians or whether the Board itself should do so. But there is more in this matter than meets the eye. There are official jealousies and hatreds, frettings and heart-burnings in the Infirmary itself, and open hostilities at the Board to reckon with. It may be taken for granted that Chelsea has by no means heard the last of this controversy."

THERE is but one remedy which will restore public and professional confidence in the management of the nursing department of the Chelsea Infirmary. Sooner or later that remedy will be applied.

A Happy Suggestion.

ONCE more the need of a system of registration for nurses has made itself felt, this time in Tasmania. We publish below a letter from Mr. J. Ramsay, M.B., Ch.B., Surgeon-Superintendent of the General Hospital, Launceston, in that Colony, which was addressed to the Editor of the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, which will demonstrate the means with which it is proposed to deal with the question in Tasmania:—

SIR,—It has been decided by the Board of Management of this hospital to have published annually in the colonial medical journals a complete list of the nurses who have obtained their certificates in the training school of this hospital. This is an attempt of the nature of an experiment to supply medical men with a list for reference, so that in any case of doubt there would be a ready means by which to decide. Cases have come frequently before my notice where women who have never been trained, or who have been trained very imperfectly, have successfully passed themselves off as trained nurses, and by their ready wit are making a good business in nursing. Surely the properly trained nurse requires protection against such as these, just as the medical profession does against quacks. The remedy lies a good deal in the medical man's hands, but a little delicacy on his part (whether proper or not) may prevent him from inquiring thoroughly into their *bonâ fides*. To assist him, and also for the protection of nurses and patients, a register of all properly certificated nurses would be of great service.

A compulsory registration of all trained nurses would be the most satisfactory solution of this difficulty, but until this could be brought about would it not be advisable for the medical journals to take the matter up, and publish annually, in the December or January number, a list of those nurses up to date who have obtained their certificates in the various training schools of the colonies?

With regard to nurses trained in England and other countries, I can see no solution other than registration. Some good ought to result from dealing as suggested with nurses trained in our colonial schools, and a step in this direction might be taken.

I am forwarding a complete list of nurses (see advertisement column, page xxi) who have received their certificates in the training school of this hospital to the publishers of the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, and in doing so am communicating with you to inquire as to whether there is any likelihood of such a scheme as this being carried out satisfactorily.

Trusting that you will give the matter your favourable consideration,

I remain, yours sincerely,

J. RAMSAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Surgeon Superintendent.

General Hospital, Launceston.

December, 1898.

THE ultimate goal of all schemes for registration must of course be legal registration by Act of Parliament, but pending this we think Mr. Ramsay's suggestion a most useful one. It is most interesting to note how, on all sides, in different parts of the world, the conviction is growing as to the necessity for the registration of nurses, for the protection both of the public and of nurses themselves. The importance of the efforts which are being made in this direction cannot be over-estimated, and indeed we believe that compulsory registration in this country will be brought about ultimately by the education of public opinion, owing to the progress of our more enlightened colonies in this matter. There is no doubt that if the nurse training schools in Great Britain would agree to adopt Mr. Ramsay's suggestion, and publish annually lists of their certificated nurses they would be adopting a measure of great benefit to the public, and one which would greatly simplify the question of registration when it is brought before Parliament.

The Transport of Sick Soldiers.

A CORRESPONDENT in the "Morning Post" draws attention to the conditions which at present obtain in relation to hospital accommodation for sick soldiers in Hong Kong as well as to the transport arrangements. Having been in the Army Medical Service for over eighteen years, and having seen nearly every military foreign station north of the Equator, this "Surgeon-Major" writes with some force, and the conclusion he has

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