

have, upon the best authority, stated to have been imprisoned for theft. Mr. Edward Fardon said that the officials of the Association sent "registered letters to the address this nurse had given, drawing her attention to these accusations, and asking what steps she was taking with regard to them. These letters had however been returned, and they had been unable to find her whereabouts. Since then a letter had been received—not from a private source, but one which he was not allowed to make public—stating that in 1881, the lady in question had been sentenced to nine months imprisonment for perjury.

Considerable disinclination was exhibited to accept this information, or the notorious facts with relation to this person's character; and we cannot but regard the officials as being gravely to blame for not having accumulated sufficient evidence to prove their case before they brought the matter before the Council. We maintain that they had no justification for expecting even their subservient nominees to adopt their suggestion of expelling this person from their Association, without the clearest possible proofs. Such evidence has been for long in our possession, as the officials are well aware; because only last week they referred a representative of a well-known Society which was seeking for evidence concerning this person, to our Offices. They have, therefore, no grounds for pleading ignorance, or for failing in their duty towards the Association, except their manifest expectation that their obedient supporters would adopt any step, however grave, merely at their dictation. They may be right in this contention, in every other matter, but we imagine they will find the present Council very tenacious when questions of personal character are concerned.

The nursing profession and the public are waiting now to know what steps have been taken with regard to investigating the position of the late member of the General Council to whom we have referred. It was a great national duty undertaken by the Association, and publicly promised by a daughter of the Queen, that the Association would take "absolute power to remove temporarily or permanently from the roll the name of any nurse who proved herself unworthy of trust." If the Association continues to fail, as it is now failing, in that undertaking and duty, the public will undoubtedly condemn its inaction in the strongest terms.

Annotations.

A LIGHT IN THE WEST.

WHEN we announced last year that Miss Hanna Kindbom had been appointed to the Chair of Clinical Nursing in the University of Texas there were those who received the announcement with a smile. It was, they thought, an appointment which might be suitable to the needs of the far-away West, but was not likely to be repeated nearer home. Now, once more good news comes from the West that a course of practical demonstrations in nursing has been organized for the students of the Medical School connected with the Johns Hopkins Hospital, a department of the University of Baltimore.

The medical students comprise both young men and women who all take the greatest interest in the instruction in the art of nursing. The demonstrations are given by the two assistants of Miss Nutting, the Superintendent of the Nurse Training School of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, in the Amphitheatre, every week. These demonstrations include instruction in bed-making, bathing, dressing, moving, and changing the patient's linen, as well as the making and application of all kinds of appliances—a complete course, in fact, in practical nursing.

The pupils much appreciate the opportunity thus afforded them, and as evidence of this we may quote the fact related to us, that one day when a patient's gown was being changed, one of the students said, "Now, won't you show us how to take off that kind that doesn't come open." No doubt the mystery of removing a garment of this description—a difficulty to a woman until she learns the right way to set about it—appears unfathomable to the male mind.

The recognition, by one American University after another, of the desirability, and, indeed, the necessity, of including instruction in practical nursing in the curriculum of education for medical students, is a most important one. We have, for years, advocated the importance of such training for medical practitioners if they are to be able eventually to know whether or not their patients are efficiently tended. Formerly nursing was to a great extent unskilled labour, and, therefore, no special instruction in it was necessary, or possible. But, now that it has attained to the position of a science, it is evident that

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)