

very thorough knowledge of her work, but also some experience of the world and its ways, and a wholesome and sympathetic nature. The private nurse should be nurse and companion in one; and becomes a bore and a nuisance in a private house if she cannot fill the dual role.

BUT the nurse is not altogether to blame for her inability to please in every case, and to satisfy all sorts and conditions of medical men, and their sometimes very exigent patients, and unless medical men maintain, in their own attitude towards her, marked respect, especially in the sick room, it is inevitable that the general public should lose confidence in her. And what is written concerning the trained nurse, is read and marked by the public.

Now, of late we have noticed with regret that almost without exception any allusion to trained nurses to be found in the medical press is one of ridicule, or censure, and we will take as corroborative evidence the articles which are appearing in the *Medical Press and Circular*, under the heading, "Nurses of the Latest Fashion, A.D. 1899," by Mr. Frederick Gant, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, purporting to be "Professional Experiences in Short Stories," the first sketch being headed "Satan in Petticoats."

If, in Mr. Gant's professional career, he has met with many of these criminals in nursing uniform defrauding the public, we can only express our astonishment that he has not at once handed them over to the tender mercies of the police, and that he has taken such an active part in abetting the present Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association in their betrayal of the fundamental principle for which the Association was founded—notably the legal Registration of Trained Nurses *for the protection of the public!* If it is true that "Satan in Petticoats" exists to any great extent, and is preying upon a credulous and helpless public, then the medical men who know it and oppose the elimination of these criminals from our ranks by State Registration, and control, are little less criminal than the women they employ, because it is indisputable that if doctors did not employ these women they would be compelled to prosecute their "diabolical purposes" outside the sick room.

AND it is useless for Mr. Gant, and those medical colleagues, who supported Mr. Edward Fardon, Hon. Sec., Royal British Nurses' Association, when he betrayed the interests of

certificated nurse members of that body *and the public*, in voting at a public meeting for the following cruel and false resolution—"That a legal system of registration of nurses, is inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit"—to pose as disinterested champions of the sick, by flaunting "Satan's" petticoats in public view, so long as they, from interested professional motives, oppose with intense bitterness the just measures of reform which qualified nurses of good moral character demand in order to dissociate themselves from nursing quacks.

MR. GANT cries aloud to a defenceless public, "Beware of your nurse-cook (who adopts this role for poisoning purposes), beware of the would-be murderess for money, beware of the bigamist—of the widow, as she is not—the liar, the religious hypocrite, the prostitute, the swindler, the common thief!!!" And then he has the audacity, in writing of Registration, to propose, in the next column, of his "story" that "touching the financial relation of nurses to the public needs, an uncertificated nurse, of whom there are at least hundreds as "nurse attendants" with, or without adequate, or *any* practical knowledge, and with or without *any* guarantee as to her known personal character and antecedents," should, for the security of the public, be included (in a separate list) on the same legal Register as certificated nurses! And continues, "The author, in presenting these papers on Nurses of the Latest Fashion, whether by the unauthorised assumption of the nursing vocation, or who are imperfectly certified, would, therefore, humbly urge his plea for 'State Registration' of the *whole* body of nurses and nurse attendants in one common legal register"!!!

STATE Registration of Trained Nurses is sure to come—that even the obstructionists at the helm of the Royal British Nurses' Association are beginning to realise, in spite of Mr. Fardon's opinion; but if they imagine that they will be permitted to depreciate the professional status of the thoroughly efficient certificated nurse by placing her cheek by jowl, a la Burdett Directory, with untrained "attendants," they are over-estimating both their own powers and the patience of the public. We thank Mr. Gant for the hint, and also for the sprightly "Satan"; both will, no doubt, prove eminently useful when the great campaign begins in earnest—as it shall begin—for the protection of the defenceless sick from the "Nurses of the Latest Fashion," who are at present employed by some medical men in preference to respectable certificated nurses.

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