

A Black Sheep.

It is seldom our duty to record in these columns a grave charge against a certificated nurse. Many charges have of late been made against "nurses" which we chronicle in order to prove the necessity of registration, as a protection to the public, and as a means of safeguarding the fair fame of the nursing profession from the discredit brought upon it by those who, if a system of registration prevailed, would at once be recognized as having no right to the name which they assume. An instance of well founded proof of the misconduct of a trained nurse is extremely rare. One, however, was recorded in the last few days, to which we draw attention.

An inquest was held, last Monday, at Battersea, by Mr. Braxton Hicks, coroner, upon a child of nine weeks old, who died after systematic neglect on the part of its mother.

The mother, Miss Margaret Maguire, was a trained nurse, certificated at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, whose downfall was due to her love of drink. It was stated that the mother was helplessly drunk for several days after the birth of the child, and when in that condition, would carry the infant about the streets, head downwards. When the baby was scarcely a month old, the mother was found lying in the street in an intoxicated condition and almost unconscious. Ultimately she was sent to gaol for her neglect of the child, and, before the expiration of her sentence, it died in the Wandsworth Infirmary. The jury were of opinion that the case "fell just short of manslaughter," so the nurse, who was present, escaped with a caution.

As there is at present no system of compulsory registration of trained nurses, we ask the public to note the name of Margaret Maguire. This woman, who is the mother of an illegitimate child, who has been sent to gaol for her systematic neglect of that child, and who has been found lying in the street helplessly drunk, may, at any time, on the strength of the certificate of St. Mary's Hospital, gain an entrance into the houses of the unsuspecting, and be placed in charge of critical cases. If the public desire to be protected from women who are a disgrace to their profession, as well as from those who pose as belonging to it, then let them support the demand made by well trained nurses for legal registration. It is a curious fact that, in the same issue in which we publish an opinion that drunkenness is now unknown amongst nurses, we should have to record such a flagrant instance of it. We hope, and believe, it is of rare occurrence.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE International Council of Nurses bids fair to be established on a wide and professional basis. Already the Hon. Secretary has received replies from prominent members of the nursing profession in various countries expressing their willingness to join the provisional committee, and their appreciation of the honour done them by inviting them to accept office upon it. There is every hope, therefore, that organization of the nursing profession on international lines will be accomplished in the near future, but progress must necessarily be slow, as international exchange of views is a lengthy process, and the lines upon which so important an association shall be organized is a matter which demands much earnest deliberation and consultation.

WE notice, in this month's *Review of Reviews*, that under the heading of "Learning Languages by Letter Writing," the following request, "Would any lady in London, a worker, but not a nurse, give a nurse, who is a north countrywoman, some opportunity for conversation unconnected with her duties? Nurses, above all people, need to get away from "the shop." This system of corresponding, especially in foreign language, is most interesting and instructive.

BY-THE-BYE, if any reader does not yet grasp the details of "L'Affaire Dreyfus" let them study the "Character Sketch Alfred Dreyfus," in the *Review of Reviews*. The whole case is placed so clearly, in little paragraphs, that this extraordinary case can be easily grasped. Those who have not time to read deeply owe a debt of gratitude to that wonderful journalist, Mr. Stead.

THE news of the "pardon" of Captain Dreyfus is welcome, but it is not enough. He must not only be pardoned for a crime he has not committed, but be declared innocent before the public conscience is satisfied.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Thanks for the "tasty tit-bit" in last week's *Echoes*, it made me laugh, and surely, in our sad work, we need

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