

lordship. After a consultation with the learned Judge,

Mr. Abinger said his learned friend, Mr. Brown, on behalf of the defendants, had made the plaintiff an offer, which she had accepted. It would, therefore, be unnecessary to proceed further with the case.

Mr. Brown said though no name was mentioned in the paragraph complained of, Dr. Bell intended to refer to the plaintiff. Dr. Bell had never made the slightest imputation against the plaintiff; he merely referred to the case as being one of public interest. Since the writ was issued Dr. Bell had withdrawn the paragraph from circulation, and he now desired to express his regret that he had done anything which could cause the plaintiff pain. There would be a verdict for the plaintiff for fifty guineas and costs.

The jury having formally returned a verdict for the plaintiff for fifty guineas,

Mr. Justice Phillimore entered judgment accordingly, remarking that he thought the settlement which had been arrived at was most satisfactory to all the parties concerned.

We do not propose to go into the rights and wrongs of the litigation which has led up to the case recorded above, but feel impelled to express our satisfaction that in the present instance Miss Alice Beatty has been given a fair hearing in the Courts, and has been successful in her demand for damages.

However much professional nurses may deplore litigation between members of their profession and medical men, the fact of the economic dependence of nurses on doctors should make the latter very careful how they act towards the former, and we cannot conceive a more deplorable instance of purely partisan animus than that committed by Dr. Joseph Bell, in dragging in a reference in the most contemptuous terms to Miss Beatty, in a text-book for nurses, issued, presumably, for professional instruction.

Dr. Joseph Bell, of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, amongst other honourable positions, holds that of Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and we are well aware that he is much respected and beloved by Scottish nurses; it is all the more sad, therefore, that he should have been led away by partisan professional feeling to condemn the actions of English nurses, in cases of which he was evidently very ill-informed. Miss Beatty has wisely compelled Dr. Bell to eliminate the offensive passage

from his book, and has, moreover, received an apology in Court, so that we may hope her successful action will prevent medical men in the future using their powerful positions to the injury of defenceless nurses.

Dr. Bell, in the same publication, took upon himself to support Sir James Crichton Browne, in his intolerable and tyrannous conduct of business, as Vice-Chairman of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in refusing a member her right to propose a resolution on the Agenda, which had been formally submitted by her according to the constitution. It is now well known that, had Mr. Edward Fardon, the Hon. Secretary of the R.B.N.A., not run away and hidden himself in order to escape going into the box when the case of *Breay v. Browne* was heard in the City of London Court, a few straight questions would have been put to this gentleman, *which he would have been compelled to answer on oath*. Then Dr. Bell would have had an opportunity of knowing the truth in this *cause célèbre*. Some day the reason for Mr. Fardon's mysterious disappearance may be made public, and we feel sure Dr. Bell will then regret his allusion to the case.

Anyway, we hope the result of the *Beatty v Bell* case, may result in a less autocratic attitude of medical men towards nurses. The fact that Miss Beatty has been able to prosecute her detractors makes it quite obvious that she possesses public sympathy and financial support.

### Reincarnation.

A Genevan professor, M. Flournoy, has been calling attention to the case of a sonnambulistic young woman, a patient of his, who asserts that she has passed through previous existences—the first on the planet Mars, the second in India, and the third in France at the time of Marie Antoinette. It seems, according to the *Morning Post*, that when in trance the young woman declares she can speak and write the Martian language. She uses a language composed of clearly-articulated sounds, grouped so as to form words corresponding with definite ideas. Her writing also bears the test of experiments. She speaks both Sanskrit and Arabic, whereas she has never had the opportunity to learn either of these languages, and the events she refers to are historical, though only known to students of the East. The reincarnation during the time of Marie Antoinette may be set aside as affording too great opportunities for trickery.

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