

considerable unit in the family, I saw how wrong that was, and rebelled. I made my protest—and am glad to say, it received the favourable consideration of the authorities, and the balance was adjusted.

Yet the tide of fickle favour is turning to you—and I saw a quite remarkable proof of your coming popularity the other day, when I took that stroll down the Lowther Arcade which I indulge in occasionally, just to see how it progresses—it never does, you know; you cannot find a more conservative spot in all England—no, not even in Birmingham; the principles and interests of the nursery constituency insist on this, and yet, to my profound amusement and amazement, I actually discovered an entirely new line of dolls of all sizes, colours and dispositions, clad in all the new uniforms of the various nursing staffs! This is a most interesting development, indicating a deeply-felt regard for the new profession—the greatest of all professions—and which has been entirely made by women.

I had the pleasure of sending to your esteemed journal some remarks on the hospitals I found in journeying up the Nile. I told you a good deal, but not everything; for instance, I did not report that at one—a mixed enterprise, if I remember rightly, of American and English doctors—I enquired what nurses were on the premises. The jaunty gentleman, an Englishman—of course, no American would have been so silly—civilly remarked, "We've none—we don't want 'em here!" But when I went to the Harem side, I thought we did want 'em there, and very badly—when I noted the listless misery of the patients, left to the tender mercies of the oriental version of our own immortal Gamp, too lazy to drive the flies from the faces of the helpless patients. Anyone who has been in the East can realize the torture in that alone.

I could multiply instances all over the world of the need for the highly-trained woman nurse, but I need not impress further this necessity upon this meeting, which is far better informed on the subject than myself.

DISCUSSION.

At the conclusion of the three papers on the "Reasons for the State Registration of Nurses," the following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick:

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the State Registration of Trained Nurses is a matter of urgent national importance, both for the protection of the sick from incompetent attendants, and for the protection of the educational and economic interests of certificated nurses."

In referring to the able papers which had that afternoon been presented, Mrs. Fenwick said: "I think

that we are all extremely indebted to Dr. Toogood for the exceedingly interesting paper to which we have listened with so much pleasure. He has in the course of it expressed opinions with which I differ, but as I have before said we owe him a great debt of gratitude. He comes to our meetings, he listens to what we have to say, and he has most ably presented to us his views as a medical practitioner on this most important question of registration of nurses. I do not, therefore, propose to emphasise the points on which I differ from him, but merely to express on my own behalf and yours the indebtedness of this Council to him for his attitude towards it. It is only by free discussion and interchange of opinion that we shall arrive at just conclusions. With regard to the opinions expressed in the NURSING RECORD concerning the lack of knowledge of practical nursing details on the part of many of the younger generation of medical men I do not blame them. It is the medical educational system which is wrong. The profession of medicine is a practical as well as a scientific one, and consequently medical men need to know practical details. Many do not yet recognize that within the last 20 years a new profession has arisen, but this they have got to realize and recognize. The medical practitioner of the present day has not time to do all his own work; he employs a nurse to do it for him, and he expects the nurse to be a most faultless person. The work required of the modern nurse is indeed of a most skilled and arduous character, and the mental strain undergone by an up-to-date nurse is excessive. She is entitled to recognition as a professional worker, but she has absolutely none, and at present her profession is in a most fraudulent condition. The nursemaid in the park, the so-called masseuse, and last but not least the society lady, all adopt her uniform and pose as belonging to a profession for which they have never qualified, and bring discredit upon its members. We have had an object lesson in this at the present time when South Africa has been the scene of the doings of society women, who, posing as nurses, have by this means tried to retrieve their besmirched reputations. This assumption on the part of untrained or imperfectly trained persons not only affects the reputation of the well qualified prejudicially, but it affects their economic interests also, for when certificated nurses go out into the world to gain their own living, whether as private nurses or in other branches, they find that they have to compete, not only as medical practitioners have to compete, with the qualified members of their profession, but also with the uncertified woman who has had perhaps six months' training, and who asks, and in many cases receives the same fees as the fully qualified nurse. Not only does the amateur take the money which is the due of the competent woman, but all her discreditable doings are laid at the door of the latter. From such possibilities the medical profession has wisely protected itself, but trained nurses have no opportunity of protecting either themselves or the public from the impostor, or from the trained woman who disgraces her calling. For instance, a woman who had been five times in jail continued to be a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and it was not until public attention was directed to this scandal in the NURSING RECORD that steps were taken to expel her. The public are apt to think that all nurses are tarred with the same stick, and that when they come into their houses they will

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