

of the Young Women's Christian Association Institute at Aberdeen:—

"As you have been good enough to send me a copy of your paper, the NURSING RECORD, for July 27th, and have marked your article on 'Jane Thompson,' p. 70, I wish to send you a few lines on the subject,

Jane Thompson is a nurse, and has nearly completed thirteen years as such and has always borne a good character and risen steadily in her profession. Lately she has given way to private tippling, and when on her holiday she had more time to indulge her sad propensity, with the result you record.

Seeing it was her first offence, for which she is, we trust and believe, truly penitent, was it not merciful and just to let her off with a fine and the loss of her situation?

Surely we are not to trample on those who have fallen, but to raise them up.

You have done us a grave injury by publishing our full name and address. The girl was here two nights only, and we have borne enough for her locally without its going through the world.

I trust you may see your way another time to shield an offender, and, above all, not to injure an association which is doing its best to help young women of every rank and clime, and for this work needs the confidence of the public which your article would weaken.

Excuse so lengthy an explanation."

In our issue of July 27th we reported that Jane Thompson, described as a nurse, was brought before a magistrate at Aberdeen, "charged with having stolen a ladies' bangle, and a large number of other articles, broken open a workbox and stolen 12s. 6d.," and "that the thefts were committed when she was under the influence of drink," and we regretted that on this as on numerous other occasions, women who appeared in the dock in nurses' uniform, or claiming to be nurses, were invariably let off unpunished. We find nothing in Miss Taylor's letter to make us change our opinion. That we have done any grave injury to the Y.W.C.A. institution at Aberdeen we deny.

Moreover we sincerely hope that the officials of this institute in their well meant efforts to "shield an offender" will not do so by encouraging Jane Thompson to continue in the ranks of trained nurses. She has proved herself unfit to continue a member of this honourable profession. Mercy is a virtue—but so also are justice and truth, and we consider it our duty to help to protect the defenceless public from the ministrations of unworthy women, when they are sick and helpless and their lives are at stake. Our Black List which we intend to use at no distant date as a plea for the protection of reputable trained nurses, and the public from association with female criminals, is mounting up week by week, and is becoming a formidable indictment against those who oppose State Registration of Nurses. We hope we are not hard, our honest aim is to be just, but modern philanthropy is quite oblivious of the fine old Mosaic Law.

## Nursing Politics.

### MIDWIVES OR MIDWIFERY NURSES.

We observe that the Midwives' Institute took note of the information presented to nurses and midwives by this journal alone, on the controversy between the Medical Defence Union and the Royal British Nurses' Association, and acted with commendable promptitude in the interests of the midwives.

*Nursing Notes*, the official organ of the Institute, has followed our lead in emphasising the professional damage which would be done to midwives if the arrangement agreed upon by two medical members of the R.B.N.A., Mr. Bateman and Mr. Fardon, without the knowledge of the nurses concerned, was carried into effect—namely, to term the Midwives' List, published annually in the Roll of the R.B.N.A., a "List of Midwifery Nurses." The midwives' organ also lays stress on our contention that the Charter of the R.B.N.A. only authorises the Association to deal with nurses, and does not empower it to legislate for midwives.

We cannot help being a wee bit amused at the decided tone of *Nursing Notes*, when the ignorance of professional affairs and the domineering attitude of the Hon. Officers touches the interests of their own *clientèle* of workers, when we recall the bitter and personal tone of this journal when referring to the courageous conduct of certain nurse members of the Association in opposing in Courts of Law the illegal and malicious conduct of business by these same men.

To quote the Midwives' organ, after informing its readers that the words "midwifery nurses" have been entirely repudiated by the Royal British Nurses' Association, it proceeds "Had the matter not been thus satisfactorily settled, we should have had to take the advice of our legal representative as to whether describing Midwives as Midwifery Nurses might not cause an injury to some members of our corporation, and we might have had to take action thereon!"

Owing to the prompt exposé of the whole "affair" by this journal, and in consequence of the action which was taken by several trained nurses, who hold diplomas of midwifery from the London Obstetrical Society, and whose names appear on the Midwives' List of the R.B.N.A., "legal action" upon the part of the Midwives' Institute has been rendered unnecessary; but we congratulate it on at last realising the fact that the invocation of the law is sometimes necessary when dealing with an intolerant and slippery opponent. We opine, however, that so long as the name of Miss Alice Beatty has a right to appear on the Midwives' List of the R.B.N.A., that the Midwives' Institute will find Mr. Fardon and his colleagues "amenable to reason."

## The Geneva Convention.

A Conference is to be held at Geneva next year for the purpose of revising the Geneva Convention, with the object of the better protection of the wounded. Germany has already signified her willingness to participate.

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