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**Editorial.**

**PRIVATE NURSING BY UNDERGRADUATES.**

**N**O practice which was informally discussed by the hundreds of nurses attending the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo was so unanimously condemned as that of sending out undergraduate nurses to undertake the care of private patients. So strong indeed was this feeling that it found expression in a resolution moved by Miss Nevins, Superintendent of Nurses at the Garfield Hospital, Washington, and unanimously adopted by the Congress, which ran:—

"That the third International Congress of Nurses strenuously protests against the sending out of pupil nurses to private duty during their period of training in the training schools."

The resolution thus places on record the unmistakable feeling of the nursing profession in general Congress assembled, on this important question, and we gather from conference with our American colleagues that, with their usual quick insight, they have grasped the significance of this point. It is only recently that the period of training in the Nursing Schools of the United States has been raised from a two to three years' term, and already some hospitals are utilizing the third year, not for the benefit

of the nurse and the comfort of the patients, but for the purpose of making money for the institution by sending out uncertificated nurses to do private nursing. Another evil concerning which we have collected some evidence, and with which we intend to deal more fully later, is that so-called "Colleges of Nursing" are springing up in the States, which attempt to give instruction in nursing without the essential hospital training, and to utilize the pupils so educated for commercial purposes.

In our opinion the evil of nursing by undergraduates can only be suppressed by State Registration of Nurses, and the opposition to this just reform is largely inspired by the proprietors of "nurse farms," who in adopting this course are fighting for the protection of their commercial interests, for if once State Registration were in force the indefensible system of sending out to the public nurses who have not passed through the prescribed period of training would at once receive its death blow. Human nature being what it is, the opposition of these commercial speculators cannot be a matter for surprise. The question of what constitutes an efficient training for nurses must be determined by those competent to give a professional opinion. The Royal

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)