

**"To have a body rich in health,
Is to possess the greatest wealth."**



**"The richest in flesh-forming and energy-producing constituents.
There is No Better Food."**

Dr. ANDREW WILSON, F.R.S.E., &c.

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PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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Editorial.

THE WORKING DAY OF A PRIVATE NURSE.

A MOST important point of nursing organisation was raised by a correspondent in these columns last week, which has not, we believe, been discussed before, namely that, by the regulations of private nursing societies, a nurse's working day is almost invariably fixed at sixteen hours. It was brought up on Miss Johnston's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* on "The Case against Hospital Nurses," and we anticipate that the effect of this paper will be to raise many points of practical interest from the private nurse's point of view; for if the public have a case against nurses, assuredly there is much to be said on the case of nurses against the public. We hope the question may be discussed at the forthcoming Conference of the Matrons' Council.

Is the regulation that private nurses should have seven hours consecutive rest out of the sick room a wise one or not? It is undoubtedly framed by Committees in the nurses' interests, for they have found that many private persons do not consider even this amount of rest necessary for a nurse, but are willing to work her twenty or more hours out of the twenty-

four. The point of view, therefore, that Committees thereby encourage the overworking of private nurses and enforce a working day of sixteen hours is quite a novel one, yet there is no doubt that this is the construction usually put upon the regulation.

The second point raised in the letter referred to is that the conditions under which private nurses work are so arduous and unsatisfactory that, to a large extent, the best and most desirable type of nurses give up private nursing after a short experience of it, thus leaving the field open to the illiterate, half-trained, and not highly moral women of whom the public complain.

Certainly the better organisation of private nursing, both in relation to supplying the public with a desirable class of nurses and in securing to nurses proper hours and adequate remuneration, is a question which demands attention. We think that the State Registration of nurses would exercise a beneficial influence by compelling the Training Schools to work up to a minimum standard of efficiency and by the enforcement of a judicious system of control, for the protection of trained nurses, by the Nursing Council which would then be called into existence.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)