

vice to all concerned when it states that the affairs of the R.B.N.A. are "largely in the hands of the medical members, the medical Secretary presents the report, most of the speeches are made by the same members, the discussion on the Midwives' Bill is conducted by the doctors, the nurses are practically silent." The article continues: "it seems that their (the medical members') position on the Council has had the effect of putting the nurses out of the active management of their own affairs."

We have no hesitation in saying that until the clique of medical men who have "run" the nurses' association for the past seven years on lines most repugnant to self-respecting nurses, retire from official control, no women worth their salt will either join or support the R.B.N.A.—a goodly number of old members, no doubt, continue their membership, hoping that the time may come when the nurses will again have some sort of authority in *their own Association*. Until such time the Fardons and the Bezly Thornes will continue to make both the Association and themselves ridiculous and bring the medical profession into contempt.

*Truth*, in a strong article last week, drew attention to the abuses in connection with a so-called Nursing Home in the North of London, and concludes: "The Nursing Home properly managed is one of the most useful and beneficent institutions of our time. But the abuses to which it lends itself are self-evident, and unless they are checked by the strong arm of the law, the Nursing Home may only too easily become a nursing hell." We have for long drawn attention to the glaring abuses which exist in connection with so-called nursing homes, and are of opinion that for the public safety such homes should be licensed and inspected.

Miss Styring, the Matron of the Paddington Infirmary, has held the position since 1885, and devoted herself in a remarkable manner to its duties. We are not surprised to learn therefore, that the Guardians are anxious to express to her their appreciation of her work, in the practical manner of raising her salary. The Local Government Board, with most shortsighted policy, have refused their sanction to the suggestion, and we congratulate the Paddington Board of Guardians in returning to the attack. At a recent meeting it has resolved that the Local Government Board should be urged to reconsider their decision on the following grounds, viz: (1) The salary of the Matron has not been raised since her appointment in 1885; (2) the Guardians understand that there is only one Infirmary Matron in London whose length of service exceeds that

of Miss Styring; (3) although the details of management are greater in the case of a large infirmary, the responsibility for the general management is much the same whether the Infirmary be large or small; (4) the establishment of the Training School for Nurses, and the success of the probationers at the annual examinations.

The formal opening of the commodious and pleasantly situated Nurses' Home in Grange Road, West Bromwich, which has been erected by Alderman Akrill at a cost of over £2,000, recently took place, the ceremony being performed by the Earl of Dartmouth (Lord Lieutenant of the County) in the presence of a large and influential company. Statements were made regarding the satisfactory progress and development of the nursing work in the borough since its inception a year or so ago, and increased support to enable the institution's scope of usefulness to be further extended in the future was specially appealed for. The record of work already accomplished by the nurses associated with the home was also most encouraging.

Returning to the charge in the June issue of the *Nineteenth Century*, Miss M. F. Johnston, under the title of "The Question of the Modern Trained Nurse," a happier one in our view than "The Case against Hospital Nurses," replies to her critics, and quotes some cases illustrative of her arguments which have been sent to her since her article appeared. We do not doubt the occurrence of all the instances quoted by Miss Johnston, but, to be quite fair, she should state where the nurses concerned were trained, and what certificates they hold. It would then be possible to judge whether they are trained nurses or not, and therefore whether the nursing profession must accept the responsibility for their misdoings. At present all trained nurses know that the women who bring their profession into disrepute are largely drawn from the ranks of those who are nurses only in name. The medical profession would not for a moment accept responsibility for all the quacks who practise medicine, but until we have a State Register of Trained Nurses, nurses have no means at present of showing which of the vast army of women who adopt the name have also had the training of a nurse.

The same review contains two other articles on the same subject. One, terse and well considered by Miss Lucy M. Rae, late Lady Superintendent of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, and one by Mrs. Alec Warde, which we must own is not convincing.

Miss Rae points out with some force that "primarily the public is responsible for the deficiencies

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