

desirable to institute a regular system of training in this particular branch of nursing.

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"THE Council cannot conclude this part of their report without expressing their pleasure at the very excellent reports received by the Nurses. Among the many hundred cases nursed, the unsatisfactory reports do not number a dozen."

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It will be remembered that, in the issue of the 22nd of last month, I called attention to the action of the Nurses of the Birkenhead Nurses' Institution regarding the Maybrick case, and I animadverted somewhat forcibly upon the extreme "undesirability of Nurses giving publicly their opinions upon the *professional* side of the matter, and trusting that the example might not be imitated by others."

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I AM glad to note that my remarks have attracted attention, and it is with much pleasure that I publish the following letter, which appears to fully and satisfactorily explain the exact condition of affairs, and entirely removes the responsibility from the shoulders of the Lady Superintendent and others in charge of the Institution.

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"THE Birkenhead Nurses' Institution, Grange Mount, Birkenhead, September 2, 1889.—Dear Sir,—In answer to your remarks in the *Nursing Record* of last week, I think, in justice to my Nurses, it is only right to state that they had *no* communication whatever with the Home Secretary, nor did they express any public opinion whatever on the Maybrick case, beyond signing one of the ordinary petitions for her reprieve. One Nurse took upon herself to write without my knowledge, and the fact was only known to two or three out of the twenty-six Nurses belonging to the Institution. I so strongly object to bringing the Nurses or myself into public notice, that I did not wish to enter into controversy with the Liverpool papers, but after your remarks I felt it incumbent upon me to make some reply. You may make what use you like of my letter.—I remain, dear Mr. Editor, yours faithfully, FLORENCE SMITH, *Lady Superintendent*."

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To sign the ordinary petition for reprieve is only an act of common charity, which every well-meaning man or woman in this country would perform, and which I would encourage to the utmost; but I do most sincerely and strongly advise all Nurses, and all those engaged in Nursing work of whatever character, to steer clear of any conduct calculated to be antagonistic to the views and opinions of the members of the Medical profession.

THERE is an amusing story, which comes all the way from South Africa, going the rounds of the financial papers just now, to the effect that some time ago it was found necessary to wind up a company which had got into very low water; when the accounts were made up it was discovered that there was a balance in favour of the shareholders of no less a sum than £12. Those among whom the amount should have been divided met and decided to spend £5 on refreshments, another £5 was to be devoted to the Nurses' Home, and the remainder to the secretary. The shareholders were very thirsty, it being an exceedingly hot day, and the first £5 was spent in a very short time; then the Nurses' Home donation went the same way, and finally the £2 awarded to the industrious secretary followed suit; so that after all, owing to the thirst and temperature, the secretary got no emolument and the Nurses' Home no contribution, an ending of affairs by no means uncommon in the Transvaal, judging from the facetious manner in which the *Standard* newspaper of that country dishes the whole story up.

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WHILST on a visit recently to the north I had a look at one of the Seaside Camps for London and other city boys, situate on the sand-hills close to Southport. These "Camps" have proved an immense success, the arrangements being simply wonderful; and for, I believe, half-a-crown a week pale-faced lads are, after a fortnight or so, sent back home invigorated, refreshed, and put in thorough condition to wage their little "Battles of life" in the crowded places from whence they came. This is philanthropy in its highest possible form.

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I STILL hear most satisfactory reports of progress of the Home for Nurses, at 3, St. George's Terrace, Herne Bay, which appears in every way to have met the requirements of those Nurses and others requiring rest from their labours.

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I AM glad to learn that Miss Close has, by taking a holiday, recovered from her indisposition, and has now commenced her duties at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and this reminds me that the Institution Miss Close is in charge of requires Probationers, who would receive a good training and plenty of practical experience, for a splendid all-round work is done there, and Miss Close would doubtless entertain suitable application if made to her direct.

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I HAVE on more than one occasion pointed out in these columns the unreliability of many of the statements of a captious contemporary, which for some reason or other has taken up such an un-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)