

been proceeding behind the scenes, and certainly of the virulent animosity displayed by those who, for well-understood reasons, have been hitherto opposing the British Nurses' Association. We are fain to believe, for example, that Dr. Sansom will be shocked to learn, that for eighteen months those with whom he has now openly allied himself, have been incessantly showering down the most insulting abuse upon members of the Association. That in private and in a public newspaper these women, who are engaged in earning their daily bread, who have dared to combine together for purposes hitherto considered perfectly legitimate, under the Presidency of a Royal Princess, and by the advice and with the active support of many leaders of the Medical profession, have been characterised as "the scum of the Nursing profession"—"Nurses who have taken refuge in it to obtain pseudo-respectability, because they could not get it elsewhere," and by many similar opprobrious epithets. If we are correct in our estimate of Dr. Sansom, he will hasten to repudiate all sympathy with such attacks, and at once dis sever himself from all alliance with those who have adopted such methods of evincing their hatred and malice against this Association.

But we do not hold Dr. Sansom altogether free from blame, however charitable a construction we place upon his action in this matter. Even if he pleads haste and insufficient consideration as his excuses, he certainly himself gravely maligns the Association. He confesses that he does not understand the scheme of Registration which it proposes, and yet immediately afterwards he pronounces it altogether evil. We ask Dr. Sansom what means he has taken to obtain an "intelligible" account of the proposals of the Association. We have ourselves always received—even if only confidentially—all the information we have asked for upon Association matters, and we cannot believe that any similar request from Dr. Sansom would not have been most courteously and fully complied with. But if, as we are informed, Dr. Sansom has not sought any official information on the matter, we consider that he had no right upon any principles of justice to form his own views of what the Association proposed to do, and then attack that body for these purely imaginary proposals.

We cannot but hope that Dr. Sansom does not comprehend either the importance of the work in which the Nurses' Association is engaged to the future welfare of every class concerned, or the reason why its efforts are met with such intense hostility from certain quarters. These are very well known in nursing circles, but the Association appears so studiously to avoid any reply to its opponents, and maintains so complete

a silence upon these matters, that we are doubtful whether we should assist its work by attracting that amount of public attention to them which we certainly consider they should receive.

We are earnestly anxious to assist the Association, not to hamper its plans; and we venture to point out that our present position of utter independence has its decided drawbacks, as well as perhaps some few advantages. But whether Dr. Sansom is aware of the grave facts to which we allude or not, it is impossible to deny that he has no right to ascribe to the Association ideas and intentions of which we are confident it is entirely innocent. Dr. Sansom is evidently confusing together the two totally distinct subjects of Membership of the Association and Registration—matters as completely diverse as Membership of the British Medical Association and Medical Registration are the one from the other.

In quoting the Bye-Law IV., Dr. Sansom should, in fairness, have stated that its provisions only held good till January 1, 1889; and that, in future years, there is every probability that Membership may be made much more select. Dr. Sansom states that, "It is not even yet settled by the executive whether a theoretical and practical examination shall test the capabilities of candidates." What is Dr. Sansom's authority for this dictum? If he is referring to Membership, it is absurd, for there is no precedent or likelihood, we imagine, that there will ever be an examination to secure admission to this or any other Association. If he is referring to Registration, from information we have received, we may say that the "executive" have settled this point. The argument as to "levelling down" Nurses instructed at different training schools is, to us, quite unintelligible, and we would frankly ask what it means. We have never heard it asserted that the Medical Register levels down Medical Students; and we entirely fail to comprehend how it could have this result upon Nurses.

We regret that our space does not permit us to deal further with the matter this week, but we will recur to it in our next issue.

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As we all love honour, let us seek it aright; let us seek the honour that lasts for ever.—FENELON.

LET us be on our guard—let nothing hinder us—overcoming difficulties, always in readiness, always girded for battle, on our guard like soldiers in a camp.—BOSSUET.

THE road to perfection demands only those who are ever pressing onwards; it rejects those who turn back, those who turn aside—in short, all who stand still, no matter for how short a time.—S. AUGUSTINE.

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