

even when present she did not fulfil the contract that she had made to do the housework. His Honour said he was inclined to accept plaintiff's statement. The defendant was disappointed by one Nurse, and at the last moment he engaged plaintiff, who under the circumstances might have made her own terms, and he (His Honour) was not satisfied that the plaintiff engaged to do housework, and he was not satisfied that there had been neglect of duty. Judgment for plaintiff for seventeen shillings with costs, two fortnightly payments."

QUITE recently I heard of a case which was before a County Court Judge, and where the defendant refused to pay his Nurse on the ground that she was not properly trained. Fortunately for her she was able to produce a Certificate of having been one year at a County Hospital, and the Judge accepted this as proof of her ability, and she won her case. But if she had been a St. Thomas's Nurse, however excellently trained, she would have had no Certificate to produce, and probably would have lost her claim, and been obliged to pay all the costs in addition. Of course, if Registration were in force, all the Judge would have to do in such a case would be to open his copy of the Nurses' Register, and if the plaintiff's name appeared therein, the question would be settled at once. It is very fine a few Hospital Matrons and Superintendents objecting to Registration. Every one knows exactly why they do so. But the rank and file of the profession are constantly feeling the pinch of their present helplessness, and intend to combine and strive until some legal system of protection, such as Registration would give, has been gained.

I AM indebted to a valued correspondent for a cutting from the *East London Observer* of the 22nd ult., in which, after detailing the excellent record of work done by the new Matron of the St.-George's-in-the-East Infirmary, our contemporary concludes by saying, "She is also a registered Member of the British Nurses' Association." I have been much struck lately by finding how the public are recognising the importance to themselves of the guarantee of professional standing expressed by these words. *Apropos* of this, an esteemed friend writes: "Still the Members of the B.N.A. carry all before them. Three London Hospitals have elected Matrons in the last fortnight. Not only have the ladies appointed in each case been Members, but nearly all of the selected candidates were also Members." I am not surprised, because from the first I prophesied that only the best class of Nurses

would understand and seize the advantages of joining a professional union.

I HEAR now that Membership is being made much more restricted, and the standard to which candidates have to reach being constantly raised, so that the professional appreciation and the public estimation of the Membership is certain to increase steadily. I have just received the "Annual Report," and am very proud myself of belonging to an Association which can issue such a volume to its members as its first effort in this direction. Mr. Editor tells me that he has heard on good authority, to his great surprise, that the book has been issued almost free of cost to the Association, in consequence of the receipts from the advertisements having nearly defrayed the whole expense of its production. I hear that every one who was elected a member before June 30 of this year will receive a copy, gratis. I should advise all my readers who were not then, or are not now, Members, and wish to make a good investment, to send a postal order for one shilling, and three stamps for postage, and ask for a copy of this Report from the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, London, W.

I AM glad to hear that Miss Euphemia Ross has been appointed Matron of the Western Fever Hospital at Fulham. Miss Ross was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and after five years' work in that great Institution was appointed Matron of the Warrington Fever Hospital, which she held for two years; then becoming Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the Monsall Fever Hospital, where she has been until now, and which, as most of my readers know, is in connection with the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and has made most rapid advances in Nursing matters of late years under the active guidance of its well-known and popular Medical Superintendent, Dr. Oldham.

I HEAR also that Miss Burton has been appointed Matron of the Stockwell Fever Hospital, one of the largest and most important Institutions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Miss Burton was trained at the University College Hospital, then worked for the Metropolitan and National District Nursing Association, afterwards holding in turn for lengthened periods the posts of Sister at King's College Hospital, at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, under the able superintendence of Miss Wood. The Hospital has been closed for some months, the last Matron, I believe, having been Miss Maud Smith, who is now Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)