

effort in this direction, produce such a substantial volume. As a matter of fact, I suppose it could hardly have been done had it not been for the large amount received from the advertisements, to which I alluded last week, and which is only one more instance of the business-like capacity with which the affairs of the Association have been conducted from the very first. I am told that a special cover is being made, and will shortly be obtainable, so that any Nurse wishing to have her copy more strongly bound can do so, minus the advertisements, at a small cost.

THERE is a letter in last week's *Lancet*, which many of my readers will be glad to see. Mrs. Acland, as Miss Gull, was Sister of a Ward at Guy's, of which her father, Sir William Gull, is a Consulting Physician. The justice of her remarks will be freely admitted by most who knew the truth of the troubles which convulsed Guy's a few years ago. To my mind the greatest proof of the importance and value of the Nursing reforms made by Miss Burt is that Miss Victoria Jones, who came from Leicester with Miss Burt, and staunchly seconded her efforts, was on Miss Burt's marriage appointed Matron, and continued the work on her predecessor's lines. How onerous the post of Matron at Guy's is probably few of my readers have any idea. As a matter of fact, the occupant of the post is, perhaps, the hardest worked woman in the profession.

How Miss Jones has carried out her multifarious duties, how she has improved the working of the Nursing department in many ways, and how universally respected she is, everybody knows. But I am glad of an opportunity of reminding my readers how much not only Guy's, but the whole Nursing calling, owes to Mr. Lushington, the Treasurer, for his well-known interest in and knowledge of the work, and his openly accorded and steadfast support to the Matron under difficult and trying circumstances. However, the letter to which I referred says:—"The new system of Nursing is now fully established, and no one who knows the Hospital in its present condition can doubt, now that the bitterness of the strife is over, that both patients and staff have largely benefited by the change. No progress which is worth making is made without difficulty, and if only those who took part in the controversy will forget its bitterness and recognise the benefits which have resulted, no one will pass a harsh judgment on any steps which may have been taken during the heat of the strife."

OUR influential contemporary, the *Lancet*, will always be honourably known amongst Nurses for

the great assistance it has rendered, and is still affording, to their cause. It sets an example week by week, which might be advantageously followed by other Medical periodicals, of recording much that is interesting to all engaged in Nursing. For example, last week it printed the following letter: "Sirs,—While so many efforts are being made to improve the condition and prospects of Hospital Nurses, the following paragraph in the annual report of the senior colonial Surgeon of Hong Kong is worthy of note: 'Five French Sisters of Mercy will shortly arrive as Nurses to the Hospital.' It will no doubt be an advantage to have Trained female Nurses in the Hong Kong Government Hospital, but the only possible reason for having French Sisters of Mercy is, that they can be imported more cheaply than English Nurses. This, however, is surely not a sufficient reason for filling Government appointments with Frenchwomen when there are hundreds of Englishwomen thoroughly trained to Hospital work seeking employment.—I am, Sirs, yours obediently, M.D."

DR. J. S. BRISTOWE, whose good-natured perseverance I do not for one moment question, has been making some rather "funny" remarks recently respecting "The Work of the Hospitals' Association." Personally, I didn't know that it had ever done any work at all; at all events, I have never yet seen any results, so that the statement comes to me as quite refreshing news. But Dr. Bristowe is apparently more at home when he says, "Matrons and Nurses are not so well represented in the Hospitals' Association as they should be." There Dr. Bristowe is quite right; no one said they were.

THEN the Doctor goes on to explain the cause, and says:—"But it may be due in part to the secession of a *few* of these ladies from the Society, which took place about two years ago in connection with the ambitious, and, as I think, ill-advised project for the Registration of Nurses."

ANYBODY who knows the exact circumstances of the case will remember perfectly well that it was not merely the secession of a *few*, but that it was a perfect *stampede* which took place of ladies, who very properly decided that they would have an Association which should be thoroughly representative, and an Association which would really do something towards elevating their professional position, and hence the B.N.A., with its already teeming and increasing list of members.

DR. BRISTOWE is, of course, perfectly entitled to his own opinion; but I ask him, when he makes use of the terms "ambitious and ill-advised," just

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)