

one plain simple question, and it is this : Does he consider, in the face of the nearly three thousand of Nurses who have already joined the B.N.A., and the fact that the bulk of the leaders of the Medical profession are giving it their support, that *they* would be likely to join in or support any movement "ambitious and ill-advised"? If so, Dr. Bristowe is simply pitting his opinion and experience against the opinions and experiences of many hundred others who, I take it, are presumably just as capable to judge the exact requirements of the Nursing community as he is himself. I admire and approve of Dr. Bristowe in many things, but I draw the line of my admiration and approval at unargumentative expressions of this kind.

I WOULD also ask Dr. Bristowe one other question. It is this : Are there on the whole committee of the Hospitals' Association (with the exception of about half-a-dozen) any names which could seriously be taken as thoroughly representative of either the Medical profession or of Nursing work? I have, personally, nothing against the Hospitals' Association. It appears to be a somewhat harmless sort of an institution, which interests a few people and amuses a great many ; but until I am supplied with something like facts and figures as to the actual work which it is supposed to have accomplished during the six years of its career, I have a perfect right to object to its being put forward as an example of brilliant achievements, as well as to well-meaning but irrational gentlemen making all sorts of illogical statements.

THE discussion about Village Nurses still continues, but in professional circles the greatest doubt is expressed as to gentlewomen in any numbers undertaking the work, and thus altogether secluding themselves from their friends, and, what to educated Nurses would be even worse, practically losing all touch with the current advances in the Nursing world. It may be said that Miss Brancker had taken up District work in East London, and that what one Hospital Matron will do, other Nurses will surely do ; but her work is under conditions entirely different from those necessarily in force in a country village. The E. L. Nursing Society has done and is doing such great things that one is not surprised at the excellent workers which it attracts to its standard. But it ministers to a population as large as that of many a foreign principality ; and in the very centre of Nursing progress. Besides which there are few such Nursing enthusiasts as Miss Brancker, and still fewer who possess her personal and pecuniary advantages in the work of Nursing

the poor in their own homes. Certainly the society has every reason to congratulate itself upon securing Miss Brancker's services, and from all accounts all true friends and every subscriber to its work have already good reason to be grateful to her.

To show the intense competition for posts of importance in the nursing world and the necessity for each applicant to be thoroughly well trained and qualified, I may mention that for the vacant Matronship of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, 32, Portland Terrace, Regent's Park, obtained by Miss Miriam Ridley, whose election to the office I mentioned last week but one, there were no less than forty-two applications. I am highly pleased a M.B.N.A. was successful.

MORE concerning the peculiar sayings and doings of our facetious contemporary, this time from the *Echo*, which says :—"A weekly paper seems anxious to get up a small scare on the subject of Nursing at Netley, and asks for a Commission to inquire 'Why the Nursing should not be handed over entirely to a staff of certificated Trained Nurses under the control of a Lady Superintendent.' It seems under the impression that the sick soldiers have to nurse one another there. As a matter of fact, the nursing is entirely under the direction of Mrs. Deeble, a lady whose nursing distinctions are perhaps second to none in the kingdom, and who is really the 'mother' of the highly-trained staff of Army Nursing Sisters—'the Grey Sisters,' as they are affectionately termed in the Service. There is a Sister to each block of small Wards, and she has under her an orderly or two, to whom she gives the minutest directions."

THEN comes the sting, in the shape of a footnote, of the *Echo's* writer, who remarks, "From personal knowledge we can say that there are certainly *many things far more in need of revision and reform than the Nursing arrangements at Netley.*" By which I infer he includes our contemporary, whose ridiculous paragraph concerning "Nursing at Netley" appears in its issue of October 26, in which issue is mentioned no less than *nine* times the name of its illustrious and world-famed founder. The number in question will be better remembered by its startling suggestion that sailors partake of cans of oil when storms arise.

QUAINT, clever, and bright, Professor Blackie gave, I am informed, a lecture on "Scottish Songs," in aid of the Perth Sick Poor Nursing Society, in that city last Thursday evening. If the lecture was anything like the one I heard the

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