

different matter when the unskilled and incapable penetrates into the sick room and establishes herself by the bedside of our nearest and dearest. All other encroachments can be borne, but we draw a line at the Nurse who is ignorant of her business; so if the Registration scheme gives up always in the time of our bitterest needs hands trained to follow the guidance of the well-ordered brain, we will advocate it with all the power we possess."

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A KIND correspondent writes:—"I think many Nurses would be glad to know of 'Sister Rona's Nursing Chest,' especially if they are engaged in District work, or in nursing in the Colonies, or even in outlying country parishes. It can be obtained completely fitted up, with the stove, for six guineas, from Sister Rona, 153, Chesterton Road, W. It comprises a portable stove, which may be used for the purpose of supplying hot water, for use as a bronchitis kettle, for giving vapour bath, for keeping poultices hot, food warm, and fomentations under steam. The lid of the chest is fitted with a clinical thermometer, bath ditto, room ditto, surgical scissors, director, probe, hypodermic syringe, glycerine ditto, ear ditto, throat spatula, ointment ditto, poultice ditto, lunar caustic case, testing tubes. There is a receptacle at the back for clinical chart and prescriptions. The first drawer contains bandages, lint, tissue, strapping, plaister, ointments, powders, medicine glass, minim ditto, ten bottles. The second drawer contains portable vapour bath, leg cradle, cloths, wool, tow, flannel bandages. The third drawer contains compartments for poultice tins, linseed meal, feeding cup, teapot, cup and saucer, nutritive and enema syringes, catheters."

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In consequence of several annotations which have appeared in these columns, we have been besieged by applicants for information as to where Roman Catholic ladies can apply to be trained as Nurses. Such cannot do better than apply at St. George's Hospital, St. Mary's, the Middlesex, or Charing Cross. But it is no use for girls of seventeen or eighteen to attempt to obtain admission to a Metropolitan Training School. Few are strong enough at that age for the hard bodily work and mental anxiety which Nursing entails; and, moreover, for every vacant post at a well-known Hospital, there are nowadays twenty-five or thirty thoroughly competent candidates. There is no doubt that the Nursing profession is getting thoroughly overstocked, and unless Registration is soon enforced and so eliminates the untrained worker from our ranks, the outlook, so far as regular employment is concerned, will grow darker and more hopeless every year.

MR. EDITOR has handed me the following letter to insert and answer here:—"Sir,—May a humble member of humanity in general, and the B.N.A. in particular, be permitted to ask a mild question regarding the vexed question of Legal Registration for Nurses? Though some of us have hitherto enjoyed the reputation of being decided characters, yet to-day, with every desire to do what is best, we feel in a similar position to a tennis ball, when being tossed hither and thither helplessly, at the will of players. When reading, first the *Record*, then the * * *, we are carried about by every wind of doctrine. 'Come with us,' say the leaders of the B.N.A., 'and we will do thee good. We will give thee Legal Registration and untold blessings besides.' 'Come unto us,' says the * * *, 'and we will give thee rest in old age. Join our Pension Fund' (or *Pinching* Fund, according to the latest) 'and many shall be the benefits attached thereunto.' Now, we have so high an opinion of our superiors in the profession that we would fain believe that all are guided by the most disinterested motives in spite of appearances; and as appearances are said to be deceitful, we give them the benefit of the doubt. We would cleave unto that which is good could we be assured as to which is good. Who will point out the path of wisdom to a 'PARLOUR CAT'?"

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In reply to this I would say that it seems to me there is no antagonism on the part of the B.N.A. to the Pension Fund, and that the two affairs are entirely and totally distinct. But the managers of the Pension Fund are never tired of reviling and abusing the B.N.A. in the journal to which "A Parlour Cat" alludes, for the simple reason that this paper is the property of some laymen who are anxious to register Nurses themselves and unite them under their own control. The leaders of the Medical and Nursing profession, who founded the B.N.A., did so because they declined to be dictated to on professional matters by stockbrokers, &c. If "A Parlour Cat" will read the back numbers of this journal, she will find that the Association has been rapidly successful, because its organisers understand professional feeling on this matter. The B.N.A. has never made the slightest allusion to any of its meetings, so far as I can learn, to the "Pinching" Fund for Nurses, but has quietly persevered in its own course. If Nurses had been men they would have had Registration twenty years ago, but now that they see its importance to themselves and to the public, there is no doubt they will speedily get it. But the point is this—and it is well that it should be widely known—the only Registration that will be of the smallest use to Nurses, is one which is supported and ap-

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