

many insufficiently-trained Sisters from leaving the institutions, but we can introduce them to suitable, reliable positions in which, under comfortable conditions, they can pursue their study of the profession they have chosen and learnt to love.

Our profession places greater dangers in our path than any other—of that there is not a doubt—and we cannot offer protection to all, any more than is possible to the existing associations. We can, however, give the Sisters who from one cause or another are obliged to leave the institutions the knowledge that there does exist a place where experienced fellow-workers are at all times ready to give counsel and information, without any secondary object, with respect to professional matters, as well as in personal difficulties. To-day a Sister outside the Union is without counsel or protection, unless she be of an unusually self-reliant character, or is lucky enough to be placed in favourable circumstances. To all this the Co-operation hopes to put an end.

Teachers', Private Secretaries, and Commercial Clerks' Provident Societies may well serve us as models in several respects. They have all overcome the hostility which we shall still have to fight for a long time, as we know from past experience. We must infuse into our Co-operation the particular spirit proper to our profession, and each one of us must be so much the more active members of our society, as we have greater difficulties to overcome than in the case of other associations. The working of the provident funds, planned for the future, can merely be indicated at present. Every member of our Co-operation has impressed on her as a solemn duty the necessity to provide herself for the future, as far as her resources permit her. Our personal self-respect enjoins on us first of all the duty of self-help. To this end the fullest advantage should be taken of the help proffered by the State and supplemented by private insurance. The provident fund which will come into operation when all private means prove insufficient is already provided with a small capital, the result of the insurance effected by the Co-operation on behalf of the Sisters, as the insurance offices make an allowance on insurances to clubs, as, for instance, in the case of the Private Secretaries' Society. As a matter of course, we shall not lose sight of the necessity to provide cheap means for regaining health until we have our own convalescent homes. Already many openings have presented themselves in this connection. And here, too, our hopes are encouraged by the experiences of the above-mentioned club, which has achieved so much by its own unaided efforts.

I hope I have made it thoroughly clear in the above statements how very far we are from any feeling of enmity towards the Deaconesses' and Red Cross Societies. We former Red Cross Sisters have for years suffered too much from the often-experi-

enced contempt and intoleration of the Deaconesses, and, later, after secession from the Association, from the hostility of the training colleges to us "free" Sisters. It is not to be desirous at all times to take into account in every respect the privileges and rights of the nursing profession. But we demand the same treatment ourselves. The Associations refuse to acknowledge our right to the title of Sister. This designation, however, is so closely connected with our calling by Germans, through association of the Church with the care of the sick, that doctor and patient alike would be astonished if we proposed to abandon it. Unfortunately our language does not possess any other convenient term for nurses. We have constantly been abused bitterly for making use of the title of Sister, and for wearing the uniform which is indispensable on hygienic grounds, as if we were laying claim to something to which we are not entitled. Circumstances have proved too strong for us, and we have been compelled to do that which we would gladly have left undone, for the sake of peace. It would certainly be better for sick humanity if all grades of sick nursing could work amicably together, as under existing conditions it is not always possible to keep the sounds of dissension out of hearing of the sick couch, seeing it might very well happen that representatives of the various organisations might one day be called upon to work side by side.

Legal Matters.

At the Birmingham Assizes on Monday, before Mr. Justice Ridley, an action brought by Miss Alice L. Alcott, a trained nurse, of the Hagley Road Hospital, Stourbridge, against Miss Emma Loveys, Matron of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institution, Bath Road, Wolverhampton, to recover damages for libel in respect of two letters written by the defendant, was called on for hearing before a special jury.

Mr. Stanger, K.C., for the defence, said that his Lordship would not be troubled to try the action, the parties having come to terms. He had authority from Miss Loveys to entirely withdraw any imputation upon the plaintiff's character, either with regard to her personal character or her qualifications as a nurse, and to say that Miss Loveys would be very sorry if any letters which she had written should be any bar in future to the success of the plaintiff in her professional career.

Mr. Lawrence, K.C., for the plaintiff, said that his client was not desirous to impute to Miss Loveys any malicious or other bad motive. All she desired to do was to show that her character was blameless, and her qualifications beyond dispute.

The terms of the compromise, besides the withdrawal and apology, were understood to include the payment to the plaintiff of a substantial sum as compensation and also her costs.

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