

## Annotations.

### PLAYING THE GAME.

The *Monthly Review* for January contained an article by Miss Monk, Sister Matron at King's College Hospital, dealing with the State Registration of Nurses from the point of view of the opposition. Naturally, the Registrationists desired, and expected, an opportunity of replying to the statements made in this article. To our knowledge both the editor of the *Review*, Mr. Hanbury Williams, and the proprietor, Mr. Murray, have been approached, and at least four papers in reply have been offered, but all such offers have been refused. Consequently the readers of that publication will not have the opportunity of hearing both sides of this subject which is undoubtedly of national importance.

We confess that the ethics governing the conduct of a journal which inserts one side of an important political question and refuses a hearing to the other, appear to us extraordinary. We have had occasion to notice the same partisan attitude on the part of several contemporaries in the daily press, but we are surprised that a firm with the reputation of John Murray should permit any journal published under their authority to be conducted with such a lack of fair play. Fair play and no favour used to be the boast of Englishmen.

We commend to the attention of the Editor of the above *Review* the more liberal-minded policy of the editor of the *Nineteenth Century and After*. Last year the columns of this widely-read paper were opened to a discussion of the registration question, and both sides were allowed equal facilities for expressing their views. In our opinion this is the only way by which the public can be justly informed.

### HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Mr. E. W. Morris, the Secretary of the London Hospital, Whitechapel, E., and Miss M'Intosh, one of the Assistant Matrons, have been on a mission of inquiry to the north to discover, if possible, the secret of the economy practised in the hospitals there, in connection with the question of administration recently raised in connection with the King's Hospital Fund.

Mr. Morris is of opinion that the question involved is a question of nationality. The people in Scotland are thrifty and frugal.

They are accustomed not to poor food but to cheap food. A Scotsman will take porridge, but the average Southerner is more fastidious, although poorer and worse conditioned than the people in the north. When he comes into hospital he needs good beefsteak more than pills and medicine. Then again in the north the beef is boiled, and there is an abundance of soup. The Londoner must have his beef roasted.

Of course when prices are compared, London has to pay considerably more for some things than the hospitals of the north. Thus coal costs the London Hospital about 25s. per ton. In the north they can get it for 12s. Gas is dearer in London. Then in Scotland the local authorities help the hospitals materially. One hospital pays nothing for its water, and another has a free telephone service.

The conclusions arrived at by the deputation are that the economy of the northern hospitals is a matter of local circumstance. So far as the London Hospital is concerned, they are satisfied that the expenditure cannot legitimately be reduced by a single penny.

### THE PHARMACY BILL.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has resolved that the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, which has twice been read a first time in the House of Commons, shall be introduced again at the earliest opportunity. In 1903 and 1904 several members blocked the Bill, principally on account of a clause which would have made it impossible for a limited company "to keep open shop for the sale of poisons" unless all the directors of the company were registered chemists and druggists. In view of the hostility which has been shown to that clause the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society proposes to substitute another clause, the effect of which will be to prohibit the use of the title of "chemist" or "druggist" or "chemist and druggist," by limited companies, and to prevent such companies from carrying on the business of a chemist and druggist unless one of the directors of the company and all assistants in charge of branch shops are duly registered chemists. Further, anything which would be an offence under the Pharmacy Acts if committed by an individual will, according to this clause, be an offence for which all the directors of a limited company will be liable if done on behalf of the company.

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