

article or some nice recipes they do not ponder on the slow sapping and mining of sturdy and vigorous thought which go on under the steady droppings of this subtle poison. So with many nurses. The plain fact is that lay journals exist solely to make money out of nurses, and in order to do this uninterruptedly they must be more than simple mercenaries—they are the enemies of organization, of higher standards, of an advancing self-reliance among working women, of legal status, of discriminating professional taste and of the development of professional ethics. Why? Because they know that these things herald their decay and hasten the time when they will be forgotten.

At best their virtues are but negative and the world is demanding positive and constructive ability. They have no standards, no aims, no purposes, no ideals. They are not even consistent, because they have no policy, and can only flap ridiculously in the winds of opinion. Their editorial dicta are usually pronounced anonymously; one cannot always tell what oracle is speaking. Their weapons are "knifing" and bullying, the latter privately, as they see a little opportunity.*

Deep in the human soul lies a contempt for human efforts which put money and power first and make sacrifices for their sake. Money is useful, and a sound financial basis is necessary in publishing a journal, but it must be subordinate to the ideal. There must be a purpose higher and more altruistic than the mere making of money, or the printed page, the noblest vehicle of enlightened minds, becomes a slavish creature, a prostitute.

We may well feel a justifiable pride and satisfaction in our professional journals, and hope for their salutary effect as a speedy corrective to the spurious article. Fifteen years ago the most confirmed optimist could not have foreseen their rapid multiplication and progress: our national journals, our Alumnae and League journals, our district nursing journals—they are waxing strong on every side; they are upright, they are genuine, they hold their ideal, they proclaim a purpose; they are the *real thing*. And it is worth while to note that their financial basis is solid. It should be the joy and pride of every one of us to subscribe to and strengthen as many as we can.

If there are really those who prefer the other kind let them have them. They have a right to read what they like.

For my own part, I subscribe to no lay journal, because it does not seem worth while.

* As I know from experience.—L.L.D. [And so do we.—Ed.]

Occasionally, in a public library, I look over this or that, just to see if my judgment is being warped by narrow, bigoted prejudice. On these occasions I cast aside all sourness of spirit and read in amiable impartiality, and this is the conclusion I arrive at:—

"They are neither accurate enough to make up for their dullness, nor funny enough to atone for their inaccuracy."

Examinations.

The Committee of the Devon and Exeter Hospital have received the following report from Dr. Hall White, of London, who acts as examiner of the nurses:—"I examined the nurses at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, both by paper and *visà voce*. They did their work extremely well; indeed, the only weak point I detected in their knowledge reflects a little to the credit of Exeter, for they were not quite as familiar as they should be with the best way of cleansing a thoroughly dirty patient—the person usually styled a verminous person. All the nurses had evidently been most carefully trained in practical details, and I believe fully two-thirds of them might be described as excellent. The highest marks were obtained by Nurse Rish, who got 1,040, and Nurse Ballantyne got 1,032." As the result of the above report, Nurse Rish will receive a gold medal and Nurse Ballantyne a silver medal.

We congratulate both the nurses and their teachers on this excellent report. Until such time as an examination for nurses is instituted under a central State-appointed Board, the knowledge of nurses is best tested by examiners from outside the nursing school.

A Reason for Registration.

The Pontefract Guardians were last week informed that the newly-appointed probationer nurse in the infirmary had voluntarily quitted the Board's service, on the discovery that her antecedents were not as represented. She had obtained the situation on her representation that she was single, whereas, the Chairman said, she was not only married, but living apart from her husband, and mother of the illegitimate child of another man. The persons in Leeds, Castleford, and Horbury, who had given her testimonials, could not be found, and, the Chairman said, there could be no doubt the Board had been badly "had." The woman's resignation was formally accepted.

Here is a case of forged testimonials and roguery which, under a system of legal registration could not occur.

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