

Royal British Nurses Association, and against the policy of the Hospital Governors' Trust, and all the world over, this registration question is rapidly evolving into a fight between employer and employed owing to the intolerance of the former.

As working women in this country and in many of our colonies are so disastrously ill-paid and poor, and in consequence so terribly defenceless, would it not be possible for us to have a mass meeting in London in the autumn to expose the underlying principles of this opposition upon the part of the hospital governors, medical baronets, and some women of rank who as Presidents of rural nurses' associations, control the nursing of the sick poor in country districts, and usually provide as nurses for "my peasants" women with a very limited training and practical experience of their most responsible work—women to whom they would not entrust the care of those near and dear to themselves—when sick and in pain.

#### PROGRESS IN GERMANY.

Sister Agnes Karll, who we had hoped to have with us for the *Conversazione*, writes from Berlin: "How I long to be with you for the first gathering of your National Council of Nurses. I should like immensely to know you all so much better by living a short time with you, but I am too weak for such a journey, and if I was better I fear I could not leave my work here."

Sister Karll is now recovering from a very serious operation for appendicitis (may she speedily regain health and strength—good workers are scarce), but sends thanks from the German Nurses' Association for the Resolution of congratulation on the passing of the Examination Bill, forwarded by the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The German Bill deals primarily with male nurses (how German!), but, although far from satisfactory from a trained nurse's point of view, Sister Karll writes: "I am glad to have any Bill as things are growing worse and worse. With this Bill we can begin to work for improvement in conditions, and without it we could do nothing—it requires a person to be the age of twenty-one, and to have a full year of training before they can begin to nurse. What it is proposed to teach is quite good, but too much for one year. But, at least, it is solid ground to begin on for something better."

## The Parasites of Insects.

BY JOHN MASTIN, R.B.A., F.R.M.S., ETC.,  
Author of "The True Analysis of Milk," etc.

By a wise provision of Nature we are so constituted that if we wish to keep mentally and physically healthy, work in some form is necessary. This necessity for active work permeates not only our moral, physical and intellectual being, but the whole of the animal and vegetable kingdoms and every living thing throughout creation, and in every grade of existence there is raging an interminable war with lower and injurious forms of life. If we neglect our duty and live lives of mental and physical sloth, disease, if not actual disaster follows, and thus work and study, apart from bringing supreme pleasure, become also the means of enabling us to fulfil our duty and the purpose for which we are here. The same thing applies to insect life, which, if we compare with our own, we find is so full of struggle and fight that had we to work so hard we should cease to take any pleasure in existence. But Nature helps all who help themselves and we, as well as all other forms of life, are able to work only so much as we do work; the difficulty of to-day will be past tomorrow and the overcoming of it will have strengthened us to meet and overcome a still greater,—on the other hand, a difficulty avoided means a loss of strength. So it is with insects, there are myriads of minute forms of life which have ceased to work for, and find, their natural food for generations past, because they may chance to have found an easy way of getting it or a substitute for it, and so they have gradually lost the faculty for work and become mere parasites. Some have lost eyesight and become blind, others deaf, but all are more or less incapacitated from fulfilling their destinies and consequently prey on others. This is not altogether an undesirable thing because it makes the prey of these parasites fight to be clear of them or it would be eaten up, and there is thus a constant war to the death.

How few of us realise the wonderful thought and skill shown by the Creator and given to this little world of ours with such a lavish hand; how there are myriads of living organisms throughout the whole earth at varying depths; some in the dark, others in the light and open air. We cannot turn over an old embedded stone without almost killing thousands of insects by letting the light to them, and we see many of the larger ones run into the ground to shelter from the light. Were it not for these insects

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