

Trained Nurses Refuse to be Exploited by the Quack Nursing Press.

Sir Henry Burdett last week made one of his savage and, of course, untruthful, attacks in his organ upon the thousands of trained nurses organised nationally and internationally in self-governing societies. Why this ungovernable rage? Simply because these intelligent women refuse absolutely to recognise this financier as in any way responsible for their professional affairs, and refuse determinedly to be exploited for his financial benefit. There is the whole matter in a nutshell.

Since Mr. Sydney Holland published and widely circulated his now historic pamphlet, in which he proved that Sir Henry Burdett—whilst loudly proclaiming that he was benefiting charitable institutions—actually charged for advertisements to our poor hospitals, rates far in excess of what he could extract from the trade, the bubble of Sir Henry's philanthropy has been entirely exploded.

We never believed in it, and had the courage to say so. Thus for twenty years we have been subjected to his unbridled insult and misrepresentation.

However, as "the whole profession throughout the world" know his tactics, they no longer pay the slightest attention to his sheet. In fact, really professionally minded nurses do not read it. They prefer the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, owned, managed, and edited by trained nurses for the benefit of nurses, and small blame to them.

A Lay History of Nursing.

The *American Journal of Nursing* sums up Mrs. Sarah Tooley's History of Nursing in the following pithy paragraph, under the heading of "A Lay Historian of Nursing":

"There are two ways of writing history, one of putting things in, and another by leaving them out. Mrs. Tooley's 'History' is quite as striking for what it has left out as for what it has put in. Those nurses who for the last eighteen years have watched the development of a new form and a new principle among the nurses of Great Britain and her Colonies—the form, association, and union among themselves for high purposes; the principle, the extension of democratic self-government, and the assertion of citizenship—and who have seen this new spirit spread through the younger profession of the new world and permeate the whole fabric of nursing serfdom in the old, may be excused for expressing amazement at what

Mrs. Tooley has left out. The truth is, the woman who has been the foremost and fearless leader of this movement in Great Britain—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—is so obnoxious to all autocrats and selfish employers that because a 'safe' history of nursing will not consent to mention her, except in a fleeting and airy manner, the whole band of splendid women who from the outset have been allied with her must also be left out, except for equally airy touches, and the whole splendid edifice of constructive work in education, organisation, civic activity, practical nursing reforms, training school progress, sound and honorable industrial conditions for nurses, and the development of an intelligent and ethical nursing press, which has been built up with distinguished ability by Mrs. Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Huxley, Miss Brey, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Miss Mollett, and many others, more than we can now mention, must necessarily be left unnoticed and unsung. Mrs. Tooley has, indeed, painstakingly collected a great number of records of dates and names, among which we look in vain for an opinion or a deduction. And even some of these dates and names have been so presented as to give erroneous impressions."

Legal Matters.

"DESCRIBED AS A NURSE."

Nesta Swift, a smart-looking young woman, described as a nurse, was recently charged at Marylebone with stealing silver plate and other articles belonging to Mrs. Hannah Lee Barron, valued at £20, from a house in Maida Vale. The detective who arrested her said that he found her hiding under a bed. She said, "I have stolen nothing. It is all through my patient, Mr. Edwards. He has the pawn-tickets. The things are only in for £11. I am expecting a cheque from India, and if Mrs. Barron had not come back before her time everything would have been all right." The detective added that his prisoner had some very good people at the back of her, but she appeared to be in debt all round. No evidence, so far as we can learn, was offered to prove that the prisoner, who was remanded, was trained as a nurse.

The constantly reiterated words, "described as a nurse," in reference to persons appearing in the dock, charged with criminal offences, becomes wearisome to nurses who value their professional good name. We could wish that the police, until a State Register of Nurses is established, were expected to furnish evidence that the accused are, or are not; what they describe themselves to be.

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