

their earnings. But how were they to get any earnings at all, was the natural inquiry; and who were the Doctors who were going to send for Nurses to this new Home? To which the guarded reply was returned that several Doctors had promised to patronise the Nurses' Mutual Registry, but did not wish their names to be known! So the comedy commences in most melo-dramatic mystery, the keen absurdity of which, however, need scarcely be pointed out, because we can hardly suppose that these Doctors will solemnly swear each Nurse they employ to secrecy as to their identity, or that they will visit their patients masked and muffled, and under an assumed cognomen, to prevent their names being known. Because unless they take some such precaution it is clear as noon-day that the fact that they employed the Nurses of the N.M.R. would, in a very brief space of time, become "known" to all who took any interest in the subject.

And yet is it for one moment conceivable that any Doctor would be ashamed to confess that he supported Nurses, to whom he would be willing to commit the care of his private patients? We may say at once that we do not believe that any Medical man in London, of standing sufficient to enable him to be of real help to an Institution such as this, would promise to send to it for Nurses before he knew who those Nurses were, or how they would be chosen. We can imagine that a few young gentlemen, who felt they were not likely to be placed in the predicament of having a patient, might with great gracefulness, and an easy conscience, promise their valuable support to an Institution of which they knew nothing, and Nurses of whom they knew less. But it is quite unnecessary, we suppose, to tell Nurses that successful Doctors are those who take care of their patients, and who therefore are in the habit of employing Nurses whom they can trust to be equally careful. In other words, Nurses from an Institution, the ability of which to select good workers—and to supervise them—they have previously tried and proved. And if any other reasons were necessary, it could be pointed out that no Hospital Physician or Surgeon could support the scheme, because the Institution to which he is attached sends out its own Private Nurses, and no one would be so disloyal to his Committee, and his colleagues, as to apply elsewhere for Nurses if his Matron could supply them. No, as we suspected at first, it appears very probable that this little comedy cannot have a long run, because the performers to fill the chief parts are wanting.

But will it ever come before the public at all? For the sake of Nurses we hope not, because all the information we receive, proves its most un-

businesslike character. We mentioned above that Nurses were at first informed that they would be required to pay about seventeen shillings a week for their board and lodging when in the Home, and five per cent. upon their earnings when at work. Will it be believed that within a fortnight all this had been altered, and the Nurses were told that, in the first place, a house in Regent Street had been taken which would only permit a limited number of Nurses to be admitted at all, and that these would be provided with a bedroom to be shared with others. In the second place, the terms for board and lodging are now stated to be about twenty-three shillings a week! and the percentage upon the Nurses' earnings has cheerfully mounted to seven and a half per cent.! And in the third place, those Nurses who could not be taken into the Home are expected to provide—at their own cost, of course—lodgings for themselves, within a reasonable distance from the Central Office.

In fact, those who wish to join this Society are asked to pay for a share in a bed-room, and board an extortionate amount, if they are given the inestimable privilege of living at the Office; and if they decline that advantage, then they must "provide for themselves." What confidence the public, and Doctors, are expected to have in a Private Nursing Institution, whose workers live anywhere and under no control, is a question which probably never occurred to the genius who originated this plan. And the idea is still more ludicrous that first-class Nurses are likely to pay extravagantly for discomfort, or moderately for loneliness, while awaiting a summons to work—from a mysterious "Lady Superintendent" in a "Central Office in Regent Street"—which in all probability would never come. - Because, to complete the mystic circle, be it observed, the Nurse can only be sent for at the request of Doctors who "do not wish their names to be known."

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER V.—DUTIES DURING CONVALESCENCE.

(Continued from page 135.)

AFTER the mid-day meal should come repose, and, if possible, an hour or two's sleep, which should be encouraged by darkened room and perfect quietude, and I strongly enjoin our patients neither to read nor work too soon after their dinner; we want them to keep back a reserve of strength for future use, and we must

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