

out, and that so many hundreds of Certificated Hospital Nurses have been already enrolled. I have been told, however, that the press of work is so great that it will be three months or more before all the applications already received can be dealt with. I am very glad to learn that which everyone expected has occurred, and it is the well-trained Nurse who is hasting to be Registered, because she knows how much she will gain by being thus distinguished from the Nursing quack. It is not the untrained women, because the Register is just the very thing which they fear most, as it would, even if they succeeded in getting enrolled, show at once that they were untrained.

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THE following is an abstract of the paper with which we have been favoured:—"There are so many misconceptions afloat concerning the Registration of Trained Nurses, so many mistakes made by those even who are thoroughly in accord with the scheme, that it has been thought well to reiterate the arguments in favour of, and the plan proposed for, the Registration of Trained Nurses by the British Nurses' Association. The Nursing profession only seeks to obtain for itself that which every other skilled profession has—viz., a Register of its workers, setting forth their qualifications and Hospital training; and this step is now being forced upon it because the work of a Nurse is skilled labour, and requires teaching and learning before it can be undertaken by anyone, and, moreover, it has become a popular profession.

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"ANOTHER consideration that should be remembered is, that this Registration is also a means of protecting the public against charlatans and impostors. At present there is no such protection. Any woman, even though ignorant of all knowledge of Nursing, may call herself a 'Trained Nurse.' Any Nurse who has disgraced herself, morally and professionally, can still carry on her calling. She owns no authority, bows to no board of control; she has only to keep her delinquencies within the boundaries of the law. If the public knew a tithe of the extent to which it has been victimised, some measure for its protection would have been demanded and obtained long ago; but everyone knows how things are hushed up in Hospitals for fear of unfriendly criticism, and how, in times of sickness and anxiety in private families, extraneous troubles and offences are pushed aside, so that it is only extreme cases which reach the public ear.

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"IN seeking for Registration, therefore, the interests of the public and the Nurses are one, and it

is much to be wished that the unreasoning clamour which is now being made against this Registration could be hushed, so that the calm voice of reason might be heard. The principle of Registration is right, and so in the end will be conceded. The very same clamour was raised against the Registration of the Medical profession, and yet were any one now to propose the cremation of that Register he would be scoffed at. For the nature of the objections now being raised it is only necessary to refer the reader to the current literature of the years 1857-8. The British Nurses' Association has opened the Register, and has already received many hundreds of applications from Hospital trained and certificated Nurses for enrolment. When the Register is formed the Privy Council can be asked to give a legal status and authority to the work. The matter is now in the hands of the Nurses themselves. If they delay to apply for Registration they are simply delaying a great benefit to themselves and to their profession; simply putting off the day when the Registration of their Association will be recognised by the law of England; simply postponing the time when they and other Nurses will gain what all other professions gained many years ago—legal status, unity and protection."

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I AM glad to hear that Miss Noel Thompson has been elected Matron of the Stockport Infirmary out of ninety-six candidates for the post. Miss Thompson, who was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has for some years been Matron of the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and by her reorganisation of the Nursing in that splendid Institution, has done excellent service to everyone connected with it. Miss Thompson will find hard work, but ready helpers at Stockport, and I sincerely hope she will be as happy and as successful in her new post as she is reported to have been in that which she is now about to vacate, to the universal regret of her co-workers and subordinates.

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I REGRET to hear that Mrs. Perry, who has done such good work in the East End, has been compelled, through ill-health, to resign her post as Matron of the Whitechapel Infirmary.

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MISS COGLAN, Lady Superintendent to the Fleming Memorial Hospital, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been, I hear, appointed to the vacant post at Whitechapel.

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THE subscriptions raised at a dinner, held last Thursday at the Hôtel Métropole, on behalf of the Hampstead Home Hospital and Nursing

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