

tee, when it calmly announced that such "results" of their inquiry settled the question as to the advisability of Registration. But another significant fact remains. Of course Mr. Burdett thinks these facts are forgotten, and his piece of the history is trotted out again to confuse the issues of the present matter, with which it has nothing whatever to do. But we are glad of the opportunity to remind our readers of the ridiculous grounds upon which arguments against Registration are manufactured. By Mr. Burdett's instructions the Articles of Association of the Pension Fund, drawn up weeks after Mr. Burdett's second committee had announced that Registration was not advisable, were made to contain a provision for opening a Register of Nurses! We marvel that, knowing this and other circumstances, Messrs. Slaughter and May should make pretence to doubt the absolute truth of our statements on the subject.

II.—"No mention has ever been made of Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone." A more miserably mean quibble we have never read. What does the paragraph headed "One of the Elite" mean, if words mean anything? "In our issue for February 8th, we warned all Hospital authorities against this Miss Johnstone, and at the same time we looked her up in the British Nurses' Association list, and there the name appeared." The name which appears on the B.N.A. list is Gertrude W. Johnstone. The writer, therefore, either makes an untrue statement, or the paragraph refers to the only lady of that name on the B.N.A. list. There is no opening for argument. The *Hospital* states that Miss Gertrude W. Johnstone is the person against whom it has warned Hospital authorities. When the identity is denied the Editor makes no shadow of apology or retraction; he quibbles about a W! Mr. Henry C. Burdett is associated with honourable men. We ask him to ascertain from them what they think of this conduct to a defenceless woman.

III.—This paragraph of course is also a wretched quibble. The thief is not a member of the Association, and has *not* applied for Registration, and therefore all Mr. Burdett's sneers at "the elite" fall to the ground. They simply prove his malice, but do not affect the question.

But now we arrive at a part of Mr. Burdett's defence which we cannot believe even Messrs. Slaughter and May could have comfortably penned. Mr. H. C. Burdett, called to task, throws all the blame upon a subordinate. We have willingly testified to his assistant's talents, but we consider that she sadly misuses them in attacking her fellow-workers. Bread and butter are doubtless necessary, but in our humble judgment they can be too dearly earned, and this lady can

hardly be aware of the estimation in which men hold women who persistently traduce their own sex, as fortunately, it is very well known who have been the active agents in vilifying the members of the largest professional women's Association in the world. The lady in question has now probably gauged Mr. Burdett's loyalty to his subordinates and co-workers, and we trust will take the lesson to heart; but in all our journalistic experience we never remember an Editor thus throwing a contributor overboard upon a sign of danger. He either frankly withdraws what has been said, or loyally stands by his "Sub," as an Editor and gentleman properly should; and others may with advantage draw the necessary deductions.

IV.—Mr. H. C. Burdett we do not believe to have many "supporters and co-workers," although Messrs. Slaughter and May, having striven to prove in paragraph I. that Mr. Burdett has had nothing to do with Registration, now attempt to associate him with all the signatories to the Protest against the scheme. Mr. Burdett's supporters consist of five persons, and by these few all the turmoil about Registration has been aroused.

V.—Still another quibble. Mr. Burdett admits that the scurrilous letter signed "A Hospital Certificated Nurse" was published in the *Hospital*. Does he pretend that the sentence, "scum of the Nursing profession," walked in by accident? If it did not refer to the members of the British Nurses' Association, who on earth was it intended to apply to? And when it was complained of by the lawyers of the Association, why did Mr. Burdett merely reply that it was "only a fair criticism"?

"Finally," in proof of its fairness, Messrs. Slaughter and May "have only to point to the recent issues of the *Hospital*, in which the attempt of some of the active Members of the B.N.A. to establish a Home of Rest for Nurses is not only commended, but supported in most generous and energetic terms." Guileless solicitors o' shades of law! When the scheme was made public, by some accident the names of "the active Members of the B.N.A." did not appear. It came forward on its merits, and the *Hospital*, like many other papers, warmly approved the idea. But the next week the meeting at the Admiralty showed who were its promoters; and subsequent issues of the *Hospital* have contained sneers, flouts and jibes at the scheme. To take only one example of Mr. Burdett's "most generous and energetic support": "A Home of Rest for Nurses. This title certainly is rather suggestive of the Dogs' Home at Battersea, and of the Home of Rest for Horses. Still we cannot print all the strictures on the scheme which have been sent us." As a matter of fact, to

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