

the extent of their knowledge as in point of education and social position. It is this mixture of class which makes it so difficult for the public to determine for itself how it should treat the nurses who enter their houses, and it is the same mixture of class, or rather, absence of an assured position in the social grade, which leads many nurses to create difficulties of sundry kinds.

"Owing to the same cause, and the multiplicity of schools, it is quite impossible for any medical man, except after considerable experience of a nurse's actual work, to feel certain of her capabilities, and the extent of assistance which he will receive from her. In that fact we have the main reason why the British Medical Association has joined hands with the leaders of the nursing world in calling for registration of nurses and the establishment of a Central Nursing Council."

Over the signature of "H. H. Munro," a letter recently appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* referring to the interview of a representative of that paper with the Hon. Sydney Holland. "With the defence made by Mr. Holland against imaginary attacks on himself and the London Hospital," the writer says he has nothing to do beyond saying that these attacks are not made in the article published by our contemporary on the 11th ult., to which reference has already been made.

But in regard to the definite statement made by Mr. Holland, "Registration could not be taken as a guarantee of technical fitness," the writer desires to know "Why not?" and points out that the Medical Acts provide for the qualification and registration of medical men, and those Acts have not "lulled the public into a false sense of security." The writer continues: "We hear a man spoken of as a 'registered medical practitioner,' and the public knows that he can be trusted, and trusts him. The General Medical Council has disciplinary powers to remove practitioners from the register for infamous professional conduct.

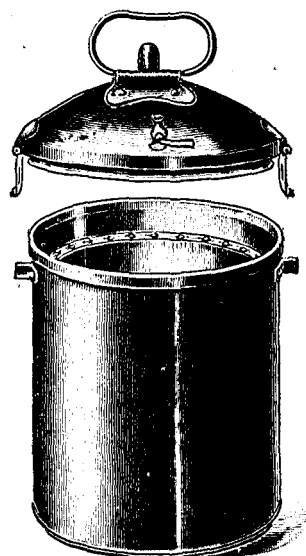
"The Nurses' Registration Bill makes exactly similar proposals with regard to nurses, male and female; nurses are a necessary corollary to the medical profession. How will the public be 'lulled into a false sense of security' when a nurse can call herself—or himself—a 'registered nurse'? Leave the adjective out, and Mr. Holland has given a fine argument in favour of the Bill.

"When other professions have charters organising and equalising their training and qualifications, why should this be refused to the nursing profession?"

## Practical Points.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to Macdonald's Steam Steriliser, for which a patent has been applied,

and which is manufactured solely by the Medical Supply Association, 228, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. The Steriliser, which was on view at the recent Medical Exhibition at the Imperial Institute, commended itself by its merits, and as a cheap, simple, and efficient means of sterilising and drying dressings. It is constructed with an outer and inner chamber, with a space between, and is fitted with a special lid, in which is enclosed a vacuum. It can be used either over a fire or a gas burner. The Steriliser is made of polished copper, tinned or nickel-plated inside, with nickel-plated copper drum, and spare drums are obtainable. A Steri-



liser the internal dimensions of which are 6½ in. deep and 6¼ in. diameter, complete with drum, costs £2 17s. 6d. Larger sizes cost £4, £7 10s., and £8 15s. respectively, or slightly more if nickel-plated. Two nickel-plated drums are supplied with the larger sizes.

The novel principle applied to the Steriliser is that the principle of steam condensing at the coolest part exposed is made use of to dry the dressings. All condensation takes place in the outer chamber, the inside of the lid being prevented from cooling by the vacuous space. Therefore, after the steriliser has been cooled, the dressings or other contents may be removed and will be found perfectly dry and in the most suitable condition for use, and this without any high pressure apparatus whatever.

When it is desired to use the Steriliser, a small quantity of water (one to three pints) according to the size of the Steriliser, is poured into the space between the cylinders; the dressings, loose or in canisters, are placed in the inner chamber, the lid

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)