

Trained Nurses; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses; Miss Jessie Davies the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland; and Miss A. Carson-Rae, Miss Reed, and Miss Egan for the Irish Nurses' Association.

In a letter to the *Liverpool Courier*, Mr. Stuart Morrow recently expressed the opinion that one reason for the shortage of nurses was "that hospital nurses feel very keenly the wearing of nurses' uniform by those who have no right to do so, and the consequent disrepute into which it has fallen. This is a matter upon which a municipal ordinance could doubtless be very easily obtained, upon petition of the hospital boards. And surely the uniform of a nurse is as honourable and as much entitled to protection as that of a soldier, sailor, or policeman. As matters stand, any ignorant little nursemaid (or worse) can imitate as closely as she desires the hospital nurses' costume and bring discredit thereon."

Mr. Sydney Holland of course replied that "the shortage of nurses is not due to a want of candidates, but to the fact that the demand for nurses is far greater than we can turn out from the hospital training schools." This is of course begging the question, Mr. Morrow having alluded only to the shortage of applicants for training, which is a very serious and distressing difficulty all over the country, especially of the type of woman required for so serious an avocation.

Mr. Holland then questions the feasibility of protecting the nurses' uniform in his characteristic way. "Mr. Morrow writes that the uniform of nurses should be equally protected as that of a soldier, sailor, or policeman. A soldier's uniform is protected; I am not sure about a sailor's; but I can definitely assure him that a policeman's is not. What is a nurse's uniform? Every hospital has a different one; every private nurse wears what she likes. We shall soon have footmen and butchers asking that their uniform should be protected."

To which Mr. Morrow naturally replies "that a gentleman holding the position of chairman of the London Hospital should inquire 'What is a nurse's uniform?' is sufficiently surprising; but that he should class the hospital nurse's uniform, so familiar to us all and so universally respected, with the footman's livery and the butcher's blouse, is an offence that seems absolutely without justification."

Meanwhile the majority of trained nurses, with an apathy which has become proverbial, consider none of these things.

In referring to Sir Henry Burdett's attack upon Miss L. L. Dock's "A History of Nursing" (a classic, by the bye, which should be the personal property of every nurse) and our exposure of the interested motive, the editor of an American magazine considers it necessary to fight the battles of the quack press in this country, and "is almost tempted to suspect that Mrs. Fenwick is somewhat inaccurate somehow in saying *The Hospital* is of no account in England."

Let figures decide "somewhat and somehow" the accuracy of our opinion. We suggest the editor in question should acquaint himself with the circulation of that journal. He will then know how many people in this country, to whom it poses as a medical and nursing oracle, consider it worth One Penny Weekly!

That is a business proposition which should appeal to an American, and we are quite content that the accuracy of our statement should be judged by the financial result.

We thank the editor in question for reprinting our opinion of the attack on Miss L. L. Dock. The more widely it is circulated the better for truth.

A friend who recently called on Sister Agnes Karil at Zurich found her busy translating the 3rd and 4th volumes of "A History of Nursing" into German. Volumes 1 and 2, which she has already translated, are having a splendid sale in that wonderful country of earnest people.

The total drawings for the two days of the bazaar at Kelso in support of the District Nurses' Association, amounted to the highly gratifying sum of £2,525 7s. 5d., in which is included £389 3s. derived from donations, and £64 19s. by Miss Geraldine Oliver in a "Mile o' Pennies" competition, after deduction of prize vouchers.

Great sorrow has been caused throughout the Midlothian Asylum at Penicuik, by the untimely death of a young nurse, Miss Jane Melvin, who had been attached to the asylum for three years. On going off duty on the 17th inst. she left the Asylum, and was found drowned next day after the pond had been dragged for several hours. It is surmised that she was distressed by a letter she had received from one to whom she was greatly attached, and committed suicide.

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