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## EDITORIAL.

### TRAINED NURSES REPUDIATE ASSOCIATION WITH "QUEENIE GERALD" AND "NURSE BETTY."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as the accredited voice of professional nurses in this country, desires to sound a ringing note of warning, to the community at large, on the horrible danger which threatens the sanctity of the home, through the ease with which the agents of the white slave traffic can enter private houses in the honoured uniform of the trained nurse.

Throughout the country there are complaints both of a shortage in the supply of probationers, and of a deterioration in the quality of those who apply for admission to the nurse-training schools. These are questions which intimately affect the public, because their own safety in illness and that of those dear to them depends upon the skill and conscientiousness of the trained nurses they employ.

Is it any wonder that parents refuse to allow their carefully brought up daughters to enter a profession which includes in its ranks the employees of women living on the immoral earnings of young girls, and which has no power to dissociate itself from them when this fact is proved? Is it any wonder that while, on all sides, the need for trained nurses of the highest professional skill, and with the highest moral qualifications, is greater than ever before, that the supply should be drying up?

We ask both the public and trained nurses to read carefully the report of the proceedings against Elizabeth Anne Telfer, *alias* "Nurse Betty," published in another column, against whom, in the judgment of the Central Midwives Board, the following charge was proved:—

"That you were guilty of misconduct, in that in the year 1912, and the year 1913 you were employed by, and assisted one Queenie Gerald in the management and conduct of a disorderly house at No. 229, Piccadilly, in the County of London."

We ask our readers further to note that when this woman appeared before the Board, her solicitor informed it that if it removed her from the Midwives' Roll she could still earn her living as a mental nurse, that in fact she was doing so at that moment, and both he, and his client, had the effrontery to make this the ground of a brazen appeal to the Board, and the Press, to hush up the case.

### JUSTICE.

It will be remembered that when Inspector Curry raided Queenie Gerald's flat that the door was opened by "Nurse Betty" in nursing uniform, who described herself as a mental nurse. It was further stated by a witness in the course of the proceedings against Queenie Gerald, at the Marlborough Street Police Court, that she was waiting for another girl who had entered the flat when a woman in nurses' dress invited her in.

With a sense of outrage that the honourable uniform of the trained nurse should be dragged through the mire of one of the most notorious prosecutions in connection with the "Social Evil" of recent times, the Editor of this JOURNAL called at Scotland Yard to enquire what right "Nurse Betty" had to the uniform which she had so disgraced. She there learnt that while her nursing qualifications were doubtful, she had the definite qualification of "certified midwife," and that her name was Telfer.

### VALUE OF A CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND ROLL.

This fact was brought to the notice of the Central Midwives Board, who instituted enquiries, with the result that "Nurse Betty" was cited to appear before the Board on November 6th, and after hearing the case for the prosecution, and both "Nurse Betty" and her solicitor in her defence, the Board performed its public duty, and directed that the name of Elizabeth Anne Telfer should be removed from the Roll and her certificate cancelled. Henceforth she cannot, under penalty upon conviction, describe herself as a midwife,

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