

Burdett, who for a quarter of a century has controlled its destiny; the latter is issued by the Macmillan Company, in co-operation with a well-known firm of advertising agents. The policy of the former is actively anti-feminist and anti-registration. The latter professes to have none! Both journals are reported to reap a rich harvest from their advertising sheets—the nursing profession being the little pigeon for whose feathers they eagerly compete.

Sir Henry advertises his paper as the "Premier organ of the Profession" (and the rival firm offers everything "free," even if without a pound of tea!); but that other men of business should attempt to exploit our profession on identical lines naturally appears to Sir Henry and his employees an outrage which cannot be borne in silence.

Anyway, the sight of Macmillan's organ advertising its indispensable benefits to the nursing profession at large, in huge letters at either end of the Exhibition Hall (not to mention the orange posters), outraged the *Mirror* man's sense of propriety, and quite naturally he "let fly."

Of the financial arrangements between the Exhibition authorities and the lay edited nursing journals we know nothing, but that the active personal manipulation of the Nursing Conference has been for the past three years in the hands of Miss S. Bulan, the Swedish lady (untrained) who edits the *Nursing Times*, is an indisputable fact, and that this should be news to the *Mirror* man is incredible.

Of course, in connection with the Conference prospectus there has always been issued an imposing "front sheet" containing the names of well-known matrons and others, who are apparently quite content to give their names, and "no further meddle therein." Since realising this fact, we, with many other professional women, have ceased to attend the Conference, and it is high time it should be generally realised that drastic alteration must be inaugurated in the management of these Conferences if they are to be usefully continued.

The first essential is that unprofessional newspaper control must be entirely eliminated, and a representative Committee of professional women elected, who will keep personal control of the Conference, and maintain a high ethical standard, uninfluenced by commercial considerations. We believe in Exhibitions, and we believe in Conferences as factors of great educational usefulness, but we do not believe in exploitation, nor can we countenance conditions which encourage it.

THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH.

EVENING SESSION.

CONDITIONS OF NURSING.

Miss A. C. Gibson presided at the Evening Session of the above Conference at the Yeomanry Hall, Elver'ion Street, S.W., in place of Miss Amy Hughes, who unfortunately was absent from indisposition, and in introducing the first speaker, Mr. Charles H. Ward, a Guardian of the West Ham Union, said that the programme was so full that she would not make any remarks from the chair, though the subject was one in which she was exceedingly interested. She therefore called at once upon Mr. Ward to read his paper.

ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN.

Mr. Ward introduced his subject by saying that the best means of emphasising the relative importance of things was by comparison, and remarked "Should a teacher teach seven days a week?" Fancy having to contend at an educational conference that a teacher should receive one day's rest in seven! And yet, wherein lies the difference between the teacher and the nurse? I think I am drawing a very fair and legitimate comparison. Both the teacher and the nurse are drawn from practically the same social circle. If anything, surely in the matter of social status the advantage would be with the nurse. For this reason, that whereas it is possible for the parents of the embryo teacher to be relieved of the bulk of the burden of her maintenance from the age of fourteen years, it is necessary for the parents of the future nurse to provide for her maintenance till a much later age. The nurse as a rule cannot commence her training until she is twenty-one years of age. The circles from which the two are drawn are practically identical. Yet the two services, appealing to the same family circle, do so with such a remarkable difference in the conditions of service. Why should this be so? Surely nursing is as arduous and as nerve-racking as teaching. I have drawn this comparison in order to call attention to the relative attraction of the two branches of public service to the same individual."

Mr. Ward then showed that having been kept by her parents, or taken up other employment until twenty-one years of age, the probationer started her training with a working day commencing at 7 a.m., and concluding at 8 p.m., seven days a week, with fifty-nine days in the year for holidays and off duty time. Her year was thus divided into 2805 working hours, and 5,961 off duty and holiday hours. In short, she had practically one hour on duty to two hours off.

The teacher's working day started at 9 a.m., and concluded at 4.30 for five days a week, with 150 days during the year for holidays. Her year was thus divided into 1,094 working hours and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)