

the Training School, because its Register merely shows which Nurses have passed through which Hospitals. It is manifestly untrue that the Register promotes the second and third-rate Nurse at the expense of the best-trained Nurses, because it has exactly the reverse effect, by enabling anyone at a glance to distinguish between the two classes, a feat which has hitherto been impossible. It is as untrue to assert that it reduces all Nurses to one level as it would be to assert that the Medical Register has had that effect upon medical men. It is untrue to state that the Register "attracts Nurses of inferior qualifications," for the simple reason that the Registration Board would not accept applications from such persons. Out of the 1,700 Nurses in the first Register 1,218 have worked in important Hospitals for periods varying from three to thirty-three years.

As a Nurse who was for some years the head of one of the most important Training Schools for Nurses in the United Kingdom, I am at a loss to understand Dr. A. Ernest Sansom's justification for arrogating to himself the ability to speak in the name of Nurses. I entirely dispute his right to attempt to prevent Nurses from doing all in their power to purify the ranks of their profession from women who disgrace them and are dangerous to the public. I deny that because Dr. Sansom and other estimable gentlemen, while waiting for the large measure of success which they doubtless deserve, deliver a few lectures to Nurses upon elementary anatomy and physiology, that they are therefore in the slightest degree entitled to pose as teachers of "Nursing," which I may inform these gentlemen can only be learnt by actual attendance upon the sick. And I therefore entirely fail to comprehend the assumption of Dr. Sansom that he and his fellow workers continue to have any control over Nurses who have left the service of the Hospital where they were trained.

Finally, I entirely traverse Dr. Sansom's statement that "the opposition to the scheme of registration is made in the interests of the best Nurses and the public." I maintain that the best Nurses desire registration so much that many of them are willing to pay to gain the privilege. And as to the public, let your readers turn to the Blue Book of evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords last July with respect to the London Hospital, as the spokesman of which Dr. Sansom is evidently acting. They will there find that the great East End Charity advertises to supply "thoroughly Trained Nurses" for private patients, and sends out women who have only been a few months in its service, and long before it has ventured to certificate them as trained; that it takes these women in to be taught Nursing in its wards under supervision, and interrupts their training to send them out to learn what they can at the expense of the public; and that it pays these women £20 a year, and makes the public pay from a guinea and a half to two guineas a week for their services; that after paying all expenses, it made in 1889 a net profit of more than £1,200 out of its Private Nursing Staff. Then let your readers note that most of the virulence of the hostility to the Registration of Nurses and one-third of the false statements concerning the Association and its work proceed from the London Hospital, and I leave them then to draw their own conclusions, as to the disinterested nature of the opposition to a Register from whose pages the names of the semi-trained pupils of the London Hospital would be conspicuous by their absence. I venture to appeal to your readers to inquire into the matter for themselves. They can obtain the Register and all information respecting the Association from the Secretary, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W. If they will investigate the question, I have no doubt that their verdict will coincide with that so ably expressed by you, Sir, and by your medical and lay contemporaries.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

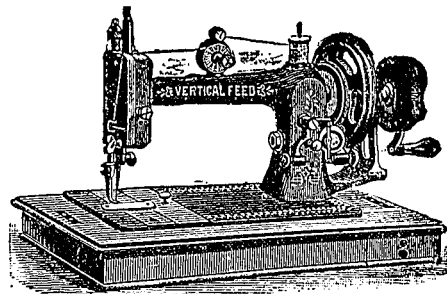
ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,

Late Matron and Superintendent of Nursing,

May 22, 1891. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

### SPECIAL PRIZE COMPETITION.

WE have much pleasure in announcing that we are enabled to offer a Special Prize—viz., a Sewing Machine, as per illustration, which is furnished with a handsome walnut cover, of the value of FIVE GUINEAS, to the com-



petitor who makes and sends in the neatest and most effective NURSE'S CAP. *Rules.*—The cap, which should be accompanied with the full name and address of the competitor and a statement of the exact cost of the materials used in the making of it, with the coupon cut out of our advertisement column, securely packed in a box, must be addressed to "Nursing Record Special Prize Competition, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C." It must be delivered not later than Saturday, August 1, next. The manufacturers have kindly undertaken to teach the winner (free of any charge) how to work and use the machine. The machine is on view and can be seen any day from ten to twelve at the Vertical Feed Sewing Machine Company, 24, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

### A DELIGHTFUL HOME.

BY MRS. BRUCE.

WHEN in Brighton the other day I paid a visit to the new Home of Rest for Nurses, opened by H.R.H. Princess Christian on the 4th of May. I take a deep interest in Nurses and their profession, and therefore I greatly wished to see what kind of a Home had been prepared for those much-deserving women who dedicate their time and their life to the alleviation of suffering and distress. I found my way to 12, Sussex Square, which is situated high up, overlooking the sea, in that upper part of the town which is called "Old Brighton," where there is plenty of air blowing fresh from the sea, and where one can get away from the crowds of visitors, invalids, niggers, and donkeys, to be found at the other and more fashionable end of the town.

As I rang the bell, I thought that, at any rate, the committee might congratulate themselves on the position of the Home, for that in itself was a recommendation. I was pleased, too, with the outside appearance of the house: it had been freshly done up and painted; and with its pale-yellowish paint, and its door and window-frames of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)