

believe that there are many Nurses who are thus waiting for their more public-spirited and less selfish sisters to win a professional status for Nursing and then propose to join the Association and claim the benefits for which others have laboured in the face of many obstacles. We could not have believed such tactics possible had not we learnt it from Nurses themselves.

Our contemporary, however, does not notice another aspect of the question which is most important. We have reason to believe that several leading Hospital authorities now recognize that the legal Registration of Nurses is inevitable and that by opposing the current of public opinion on the matter they will cause the gravest injury to their Institutions.

The financial condition and the general work of the Association, as detailed in the current number of our contemporary, are so important that we must defer their consideration until another opportunity.

THE PRINCE OF WALES ON NURSING.

IN his speech at the presentation of a portrait to Sir Sydney Waterlow, who has for eighteen years well and worthily occupied the post of Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Prince of Wales made some interesting references to the Nursing Staff and its development during the same period. In 1873 the female Staff numbered one hundred and sixteen; it is now two hundred and fifty; but the increase in numbers is only one of the many improvements that will suggest themselves to the memory of every old Bart.'s Probationer. A Training School has been established, whose certificate is one of the most valuable of Nursing diplomas, recording, as it does, three years' theoretical and practical work, and two successful examinations; while the terms upon which paying Probationers are received are fairer to the patients and the Hospital than that of any other Institution; for the system that allows raw Probationers to do duty for the Sisters, placing them over the heads of Trained Staff Nurses, simply because they pay a guinea a week, is quite unknown there. The Prince also referred to the Institute for supplying Trained Nurses to the public, which has succeeded well, and deserves to do so, as it is established on the just and laudable principle of sending out no Nurses who have not completed their three years' training. They are then, should they wish it, placed on the Staff of the Institution, which is kept entirely separate from the Hospital Staff, no Nurses being ever sent out direct from the Wards. Thus, only fully Trained Nurses are sent out to nurse the paying public; while the Sister of a Ward and the patients are not liable to be deprived of their Nurse at any moment by an outside call. The fact that they can employ certificated Nurses of their own Hospital for their private cases,

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without in any way interfering with the work of their Wards, must be a great convenience to the Medical and Surgical Staff. All Bartholomew Nurses keenly appreciate the immense improvements that have been made in their department during the time Sir Sydney Waterlow has been in office.

TYPHOID FEVER IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

IN consequence of the alarming outbreak of typhoid fever in the Deptford and Greenwich districts, the Greenwich District Board of Works has caused samples of the water from the Kent and the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Companies, which supply those districts, to be analysed. The report upon the Southwark and Vauxhall water can scarcely be cheering reading for those who are obliged to drink it; for it is described as being "impure and of undesirable quality for public consumption"; but there was "no evidence, however, of the presence of matter of a specifically injurious character." Considering how little we know as to what impurities are of a "specifically injurious character," the water-ratepayers of Greenwich and Deptford will hardly glean as much comfort from this last clause as might be desired. Those who are supplied by the Kent Company will, however, be glad to learn that it sustains its old character, and supplies its customers with pure water. When will suppliers of water, milk, and food-stuffs generally, awaken to the fact that there is no form of murder more cruel than the criminal negligence that sows the seeds of disease in the necessaries of life? Shall we be better off when the County Council caters for London? In highness of price and lowness of quality matters can hardly, however, be worse.

THE MISSIONARY AND THE MEDICINE BOTTLES.

AN amusing anecdote is now being told concerning the touching conversion of some Burmese. A zealous, well-known lady missionary, in one of her tours, came to a village where cholera was raging. She had a number of bottles of a "noted pain-killer" with her, which she apparently dispensed with great liberality to the stricken villagers, and leaving a further supply for future use, went on her way. Some months afterwards, she again returned to the same village, and was met by the head-man with the following gratifying announcement: "Teacher, we have come over to your side; the medicine did us so much good that we have accepted your religion." The highly-delighted missionary followed the man to his house, and there in an inner room she beheld a stately row of the pain-killer bottles ranged solemnly on a shelf, and before these, all present—saving, presumably, the missionary—prostrated themselves in worship. The story ends there, and is not spoilt by any account of the good lady's efforts to disentangle the simple, but logical, ideas of cause and effect in her new converts' minds. We all of us know how desperately attached, patients in England are to good, strong, rousing drugs; but it has been left for the Burmese to worship the empty medicine bottles.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)