

mittees that they may safely raise the qualifications required for their Matrons, and still have an increasing number of eligible candidates.

But this very heightening of the standard has in some degree pressed hardly on those old enough to have entered Nursing work when training did not exist—in the modern meaning of the term. To these, many of them ladies of great practical experience, but without a Hospital certificate, perhaps even without much theoretical knowledge, the struggle appears unfair, and even detrimental to the future cause of Nursing. Some of our correspondents complain that the pace at which things are moving is destructive of efficiency in the profession, and must end in a catastrophe. Some of them even upbraid the *Nursing Record* for its progressiveness, and hint that we are encouraging an evil spirit of unrest. We feel keenly for our correspondents, but we do assure them the fault does not lie with this Journal. It is due to steam and electricity, which makes everything more rapid than they were thirty years ago. And we warn our friends that as electricity is only in its infancy, the more its potential powers, become developed, so much the more rapid will progress consequentially be in every direction. Elevation of the masses, emulation amongst the classes, are amongst the most striking signs of the times, and Nursing is only exhibiting in such striking relief the spirit of the age, because to many people Nursing itself is a novelty.

Our friends must not despair of their calling. It is not the calling which is at fault; it is not even the *Nursing Record*, although a few estimable individuals, here and there—whose experience of the world is not commensurate with the years they have passed in this vale of woe—believe that we are imbued to our covers in socialistic doctrines of the most dangerous character. They may take comfort, for the more quickly Nature marches, the sooner does she call a halt. Nursing reform is advancing by leaps and bounds, and everyone should be thankful for it. Until the other day it was a century behind the age, and it is merely making up for time which has been lost. All thoughtful people, lay or professional, see now that Parliament must soon take up the Nursing question and legislate upon it. With legal powers will come legal responsibilities and their calmative effects. Nursing is going through a very acute crisis, and the temperature is naturally high. It is quite natural that it should be so, and we, who are

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watching very closely the thermometer, have some reason for our belief that it will not rise much higher. But the fever is quite a natural one, and our good friends have no cause to fear for the patient, nor to distrust the Nursing—*Record*.

We desire to speak very seriously upon this matter, and with some strength. We are not surprised that some of our correspondents are fearful of the future, because it is plain to us that they are not acquainted with the elementary and inexorable laws of nature. Revolutions have never yet been made with rose-water; and the Nursing profession is going through the throes of a revolution, none the less violent because it is so largely beneath the surface. We have done our utmost to help forward the movement, never descending to trickery nor untruth, but on many occasions speaking out much more forcibly than the occasion, on the face of it, seemed to require, but never more strongly than, from the information in our possession, we knew to be absolutely requisite. And until the final battle of legislative reform is won we may, at once, state frankly that we intend to continue in the same course. When that is accomplished, no one will be happier than we shall be to rest and be at peace. Current events demand from us this explanation; and in reply to the question why we have acted and striven as we have, and still propose to work, we answer frankly thus: The *Lancet* made its world-wide reputation by its single-handed and finally successful struggle for medical reform. We seek no higher ideal of honourable journalism, and we desire to imitate the example of our most esteemed contemporary, and connect the name of the *Nursing Record* indelibly with Nursing reform.

But to return from this apparent digression, from the future to the present, there is more than one advertisement of a Matronship now appearing in the press which deserves careful consideration.

The Cardiff Infirmary requires its Matron to superintend the Nursing and the Private Nurses "and to discharge all such other duties as usually devolve upon Matrons or Lady Superintendents of Provincial Hospitals." From this it might be fairly inferred that a Trained Nurse only would be eligible for the post. Some doubt, however, is thrown upon this by the enigmatical statement that "preference will be given, other things being equal, to a person who has been

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