

propose a resolution against your paper. I never saw or heard of Miss Heanley before, and I do not understand now why, or how, she was going to attack the *Nursing Record* at our meeting. But I and others object very strongly to the harmony of our annual gathering being disturbed by the private quarrels of individual Members, and I really think an exhibition of temper at a public meeting on the part of a Nurse is much more calculated to injure the "tone" of our profession than any amount of articles in the newspapers could do. There are a good many, I know, who object to your paper, and I have always found it was because you tell the truth so bluntly; but then I know several Doctors who take your paper regularly, and they all say you are quite right to treat Nurses as reasonable beings, who are not afraid of the truth being told. And I know for certain that you have made many of us see that some things that are customary in Hospitals are quite wrong, and we feel that if we stand out against such things in future and refuse to be sweated, and demand to be treated fairly, you will help us. I did not mean to write all this, but I am sure many feel, like me, very grateful to the *Nursing Record*.—Yours sincerely, M.R.B.N.A.

#### THE POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the books sent to me last week. The "May Queen" is most artistic and charming.—Truly yours, C. M. TURNER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Just received book; very many thanks for it.—Yours truly, C. SKENE-KEITH.

#### POSTHUMOUS PRAISE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—There are few of your readers who will not echo the sentiment of your correspondent, "Philosopher," that "honour should be given to whom honour is due"—to the living. We English are for the most part a stiff-necked people, wanting in those gentle courtesies that brighten the daily lives and lighten the hearts of their fellow-toilers upon earth. Niggard of praise, slow to recognise worth in others, they cannot "rejoice with them that do rejoice," and letting a pitiful "I dare not wait upon I would," stifle one of the best attributes of humanity beneath a panoply of pride. In their eager, headlong haste to find out faults, they tread under foot a thousand virtues, and care not what hearts they wound, what generous aspirations they quench. Such natures are as the dark, deserted chambers of the soul, which the light of heaven never illumines, and the breath of heaven never purifies; and in those narrow confines they would place the whole glory of existence.

Are we of the household of Nursing altogether free from this ignoble reproach? I fear not. Let us, then, purge it from our midst, and dare to be true to ourselves and just to others. There are hidden virtues as well as hidden faults. Shall we not try to seek them? If the gifts of God are not always made manifest to us, they may nevertheless exist in the hearts of the lowliest of our fellow-sisters. What sings one of our sweetest poets?—

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene  
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bare;  
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Is it any the less lovely or fragrant for lending its beauty to the garden of the soul? Of what value to us is posthumous praise? One kindly word on earth, a gracious smile or helping hand, are more dear to us when living than the most

grandiloquent epitaph or costly tomb can ever be to us when dead.

"Can storied urn, or animated bust,  
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?  
Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,  
Or flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death?"

Let us, then, generously give to living merit the meed of living praise.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly, JUSTITIA.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Emily C.—See next week.

An Admirer of Our Paper.—We hope to give you the particulars next week.

E. C.—We will endeavour to supply you with the information next week.

☞ On account of pressure upon our space, "The Vicar's Daughter" is unavoidably held over.

#### COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-SIXTH COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon a subject to be announced shortly.

##### RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

#### The "Nursing Record" POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

No. 26.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings will be awarded to the best answer to a question to be set next week, addressed, "Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C.

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a thick post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the top. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in fac-simile.

(b) All associated with Nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a subscriber will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the bottom of the post-card, "I am a subscriber," or "I obtain the NURSING RECORD from—"

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

\* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

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