

undesirable Nurses than no system whatever. The Nurse-training Homes have done nothing in this direction, and opposition from that quarter comes with ill-grace. It is hardly to be expected that the Council of the Association, however careful they may be, will succeed in preserving the Register from every Nurse of shady or doubtful antecedents; but their aim is in this direction, and they will have the power of removing the name of any Nurse from the Register who is proved to be unworthy the confidence of the public.

"The Nursing question is one of deep interest to medical men in general practice, and it will be seen from the Report, on another page, of the meeting of the Council of the General Practitioners' Alliance, that it has been decided to convene a general meeting of the Members of the Alliance to decide whether any action for or against the Charter shall be taken. In our opinion, the Registration of Nurses is most desirable in the interests of general practitioners. No one knows better than those in general practice how difficult it is to obtain a good Nurse, or how difficult it is to manage her when she is installed in the sick room. When subject to the control of an organisation in which general practitioners are represented, the Trained Nurse will be more under control, and she will probably be less anxious than she usually is at present to get the family medical attendant displaced to make way for her favourite Hospital Physician or Surgeon. This movement, we may add, has nothing in common with the proposed registration of Midwives, which nearly all medical men are very properly opposed to."

I AM not surprised that gentlemen in general practice have to complain of the *unprofessional* conduct of many Nurses with whom they come in contact; the reason is not far to seek—the great number of irresponsible, semi-trained women employed by commercial Institutions, and the raw Probationers sent out by such Hospitals as the London, who are Nurses only in name. These women, fresh from home, are turned loose into a Hospital, and scramble through a few months' hard labour in its Wards under very inefficient supervision. The knowledge, skill, *esprit de corps*, and *professional* feeling which the thoroughly trained Nurse naturally acquires during a lengthened training in a well-organised Hospital, under strict medical supervision, are denied to the short-termed Probationer. She is to be pitied more than blamed, for her lack of discipline and *professional etiquette* when sent out to nurse in private families, where *gaucherie* and self-sufficiency bred of ignorance become a source of annoyance and disgust to the medical man in charge of the case.

THE remedy is in the hands of medical men; let them take an active part in the inevitable expurgation of the Nursing profession, and I prophesy the utmost harmony, for the future, in their professional relations with their Nurses.

ONE of the most important branches of the work of the County Council is the supervision of asylums. A large population of male and female lunatics is entirely dependent for its well-being

on the County Council. To carry out this truly, County Councillors must constantly inspect a number of asylums scattered all round the outskirts of London. The work is immense, and hence the large membership of the Asylums Committee. But men, even if there be fifty of them, cannot do everything. They cannot inquire into all the details of the provision made for female lunatics; they will pass unnoticed irregularities that the average woman would "spot" at once. It is therefore proposed to employ largely the services of volunteer ladies to assist the committee. There would, according to the proposal, be at least one lady visitor to each asylum, and the ladies would probably be invited not only to send in reports to the Asylums Committee, but also to take part in its proceedings as visitors. More than that the law does not allow.

*The Charity Record* states: "Mr. WALTER BESANT has undertaken to write the introduction to a book which a select committee of London Hospital Secretaries have entrusted to Mr. A. EGMONT HAKE, to whom they have suggested the following topics for chapters: 1. Suffering London; 2. Hospitals (*a*) seen from outside, (*b*) seen from inside; 3. What the Hospitals do for the people; 4. What people do for the Hospitals; 5. London without Hospitals; 6. The Ordeal of criticism; 7. The present needs of our Hospitals; 8. What the Press might do; 9. The conclusion of the whole matter. The work is to be of not fewer than 450 pages, and is estimated to cost £450, the price suggested being 2s. 6d. We are not surprised to hear complaints from a number of Secretaries who have not been consulted on the subject, at the secrecy observed in regard to the scheme, and protests from them that the select committee do not by any means represent the general opinion of Hospital Secretaries. For the information of those officials who have been ignored and kept in the dark on this matter, we give the names of the committee: They are Messrs. BURDETT (chairman), P. MICHELLI (Seamen's), S. M. QUENNEL (Westminster), B. BURFORD RAWLINGS (National, for the Paralysed), G. O. ROBERTS (London), T. RYAN (St. Mary's), and C. W. THIES (Royal Free).

I IMAGINE that the much-respected name of Mr. B. BURFORD RAWLINGS, Secretary to the National Hospital, must have been printed as a member of this Committee in mistake!

DISPOSE OF THE DEAD AS NATURE DIRECTS.—Everyone interested in the reform of funeral abuses should read the brochure published by the London Necropolis Company. It can be had gratis of the Secretary, 2, Lancaster Place, Strand or 188, Westminster Bridge Road.

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