

UNFAIR COMPETITION.

We have from time to time drawn attention to a serious condition of things affecting the position of nurses at the present time, and one which appears to have escaped the notice of the *Lancet* Commission, though it might well have come under their survey. We refer to the competition with individuals who, sheltering under the title of nurse, constantly attend cases they possess no proper qualification to undertake.

Just as we go to press we have received from a private nurse a letter giving details of an experience which she has had. She is nursing a very serious case and the services of a second nurse were required. The doctor procured one and it soon became obvious that she had no experience in general nursing. It transpired that she had received her training in an infectious diseases hospital and sanatorium in an outlying district of Scotland and she is now employed by a Nursing Home to do private nursing. Our correspondent felt it to be her duty to inform the patient's wife that the second nurse was not fully qualified and, after consideration, the latter decided that the new nurse would remain but that the patient must not be informed that she had no general training as it "would upset him." The doctor gave orders that she was to work *entirely* under the supervision of the first nurse—but how? It certainly could not be done without placing undue responsibility upon one individual and a far greater strain than was justifiable, especially in view of the fact that the patient required two nurses and for this pseudo-nurse he was paying a fee of £3 13s. 6d. per week. There was no question here of the nurse paying a small commission and receiving this very usual fee for a highly qualified and efficient nurse. Those responsible for the Home had adopted a more remunerative and by no means uncommon system, i.e., they pay their nurses 30s. weekly and pocket the remaining 43s. 6d. themselves. It is high time that the private nurses united in order to deal with this state of things. We formed the League of Private Nurses with a view to getting united action in dealing with such matters but the response of the nurses to this effort cannot be regarded as encouraging.

The duty of the individual does not end in the sick room; she owes something to her own branch of the profession as well and it is certain that unless the nurses themselves make some effort things will remain as they are. The public do not view the situation seriously although it is one of great importance to them. This was emphasised recently when the Report of the *Lancet* Commission appeared in the press and several newspapers telephoned to ask our opinion on a position which had apparently been introduced to their attention for the first time. Among other points we referred very particularly to the numbers of unregistered nurses practising to the detriment of the patients' prospects of complete recovery and the chances of fair play for Trained Registered Nurses. But this aspect, to which we drew attention, does not happen to have impressed our contemporaries of the press for no notice was given to it in any paper. It lies in fact with the nurses, and especially it should be made one of the chief interests of the private nurses, to agitate in every possible way to protect the sick, and, indirectly, the prestige of those who, rightly, are undertaking private nursing. "Hands off" should be our motto until we have achieved our end. "But it is difficult, almost impossible," say so many. The answer is that it *can* be done. Writes Goethe: "Him I love who craves the impossible" (i.e., who brings the impossible into the realm of the possible). Anyhow, protection from unqualified competition will not be achieved unless the nurses determine that it *shall* be and if they so determine the thing is to use their influence to get every one of their colleagues

(i.e., those who are or have engaged in private nursing) into the League and to see to it that on all possible occasions—a dozen well-chosen words will do it—they impress upon members of the general public with whom they come into contact the dangers of employing women whose ignorance makes them a positive danger to the sick. Each private nurse has immense opportunity for educating public opinion in this respect; the surest protection possible would lie in making State Registration compulsory for every practising nurse—may we achieve this ere long.

I. M.

THE HOUSE OF INGRAMS.

We wish to draw our readers' attention to the "Green Band Teats," perfected by the House of Ingrams. They are now made in four shapes fitted with the Green Band, which holds the teat securely on the feeding bottle, not allowing it to be accidentally pulled off.

The teats are made from the highest grade fine Para rubber, and can be boiled over and over again without in the least impairing the quality or resiliency of the rubber. There is a soft cushion at the base of each teat specially designed for the comfort of the baby, which fits close up to the tiny mouth, and simulates the natural nipple.

Messrs. J. G. Ingram & Son, Ltd., founded over 84 years ago, are also makers of the "Eclipse" Red Rubber Seamless Glove, the Seamless Enema, the "Eclipse" Hot Water Bottle, the "Omega" Breast Reliever, and "Atlanta" Air Cushion.

These articles can be obtained from all High Class Chemists, Stores and Rubber Depots throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, the British Colonies, and on the Continent.

AN EDUCATIONAL TOUR.

The Women Public Health Officers' Association has for the third time organised an Educational Tour from May 17th to 25th, to enable Health Visitors, School Nurses, and other women Public Health Officers to see some of the Public Health work which is being done in districts outside their own. The two previous tours have been to Germany and the Netherlands; this year the tour is designed to give those who take part in it an insight into the work which is being done in some of the larger cities in Great Britain.

By the courtesy of the Medical Officers of Health and City Councils of Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Sheffield and Birmingham, a full programme of observation visits will be carried out in each of these cities. The tour costs from £11 11s. to £13 13s.

WHAT TO READ.

"Inheritance." By Phyllis Bentley. (This is the finest novel written since "Rogue Herries," By Hugh Walpole.)

"Victorian Days and Ways." By Mark Edward Perugini.

"Hindoo Holiday." By J. R. Ackerley.

"United Empire Loyalties." By A. C. Bradley.

"Great Love Stories of All Nations." Edited by Robert Lynd.

"Dark Rosaleen." By Marjorie Bowen.

"Charlotte Brontë." By E. F. Benson.

"Once a Grand Duke." By the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia.

"Oh, the thing that I call living isn't gold or fame at all;

It's good fellowship and sunshine, and it's roses by the wall;

It's evenings glad with music and a hearth fire that's ablaze,

And the joys which come to children in a thousand different ways." —*The Health Broadcaster.*

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