

statements concerning her colleagues, while her suggestion of "salvation" per the Matron has aroused unlimited ridicule at her expense.

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MR. BURDETT, however, as usual, lays the colour on the picture rather too thickly. Last week he commented on the matter thus: "AN APOLOGY. We hear that the correspondent of the *St. James's Gazette* has called upon Miss HICKS, and offered her an ample apology for the inaccuracies in the "interview" which appeared in that journal some week or two ago." Truly Pumblechookian is the turn of that sentence. "An ample apology," says the *Hospital*; "One or two slight inaccuracies," says the *St. James's Gazette*. Somewhat inconsistent these two statements. Which of the twain is the less inaccurate?

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BUT Nurses will note that Miss HICKS makes no apology, ample or otherwise, for the language which, as she does not correct it, she clearly admits to have been used by her at the said interview, with respect to Nurses and their "salvation."

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I REGRET to record the death of Mrs. WARDROPER, who, for a considerable time, was Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital. For many years, she worked hard and loyally, according to the dim and antediluvian lights of the Nightingale Fund, to advance the cause of Nursing and the welfare of those placed under her charge. Her health broke down a few years ago, and she never completely recovered. To many of our readers she will be only the shadow of a name; but others will have kindly memories of one who, in her day, did her duty to the very best of her ability. And of how many of us could so much be said?
S. G.

"Intelligent Views."

— BY MRS. ORMISTON CHANT. —

HERE is something wonderfully guileless about the interviewer who, after a flying "chat" of only "five minutes," is able to find such "intelligent views" on a very important subject set forth in that brief period, as to have his or her mind made up against a cause that has not only intelligence and the wisdom of experience on its side, but the long patient work of some years.

Not knowing Miss Hicks, or having heard her name

till I read the "chat" in the *St. James's Gazette*, there is nothing personal in my objection to the views purporting to have come from her in the interview. She may be a sensible and kind-hearted woman, but quite unable to grasp the position of either the supporters or opponents of the proposed Registration of Nurses; and from her rather grotesque picture of the perils of private Nurses, and the narrow margin of salvation afforded them, one is led to imagine that a theory born of impulse, rather than a principle built up on practice, colours her remarks.

The private Nurse is not so *very* young, as a rule, after all, and the so-called "critical moments when danger is very close" are no more likely to come to the Nurse whose training has accustomed her to dealing with patients who are some of them men, than to other young women who take care of, and respect, themselves.

But if there are Nurses whose only salvation in critical moments is the phantom of a Matron keeping a ghostly eye on their propriety, the sooner they are got rid of the better, as the profession of nursing the sick is too grave a one to be in the hands of weaklings, whose self-respect and strength of character are so doubtful.

And again, why is the "Matron" to be the "murus æneus?" She is not always older and less good-looking than the Nurse; and "critical moments" may come to her when (awful thought) she has to receive a visitor in her own room, and he "may be a man!" Only think of it! Who or what is to be the salvation of the Matron under these appalling circumstances?

Besides, what nonsense it is to oppose Registration on such ground, even if it were firm as a rock. There is nothing either in the Charter or in the Register that will interfere in the least with any maternal solicitude a Matron may bestow on any number of Nurses if she and they are so disposed. Miss Hick's definition of Salvation will remain quite as true or false when the public have a legal guarantee of the right of the Nurse to exercise her profession, as it is at this time when they have none; and it is not, after all, a very high order of intelligence that thrusts side issues to the front, and turns public attention to the fact that there are some men and women without moral backbones, and that they may be in the position of patient and nurse; while the great question at issue is the placing of the profession of Nursing on a legal and national basis, and so improving not only the Nurses' position, but protecting the public, in a far more efficient way than at present is possible, from ignorance and fraud.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)