

and Signor MICHELLI gives no proof that we are mistaken. We made no allusion of any kind to "the minutes of the Committee and Council." We are glad to learn that Signor MICHELLI has the minute book of the former body in his possession. We advise him to keep it very carefully, for it has been missing once, and may be required some day, very particularly.

3. The Council "did not issue in July, 1887, a circular offering to register Nurses under the rules," which you print on page 570 of your paper. Those rules were drawn up by its Committee of which Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK (née MANSON) was Chairman and Miss C. J. WOOD Hon. Sec. They were put in type but they were never circulated as you state.

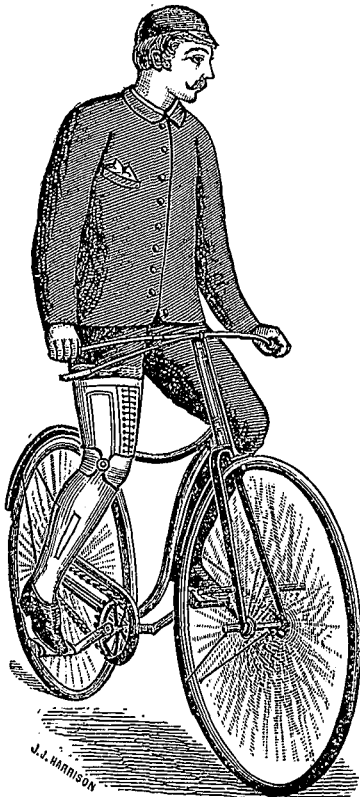
We cannot compliment Signor MICHELLI upon his strict veracity. In front of us, as we write, we have a copy of the circular to which we alluded, dated July, 1887, issued to a Nurse by the Secretary of the Association in accordance with a notice in *The Hospital* of October 29th, 1887, p. 74, that "a form of application for registration will be forwarded to any Nurse sending a stamped and addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Hospitals' Association." And the same paper of December 31st, 1887, moreover, stated that the Nurses' Registration scheme of the Hospitals' Association "has been practically opened to the Nursing world."

4. "The leaders of the Nursing profession" did not "decline to have anything to do with the scheme" because it was never submitted to them for their approval or consideration.

Poor Signor MICHELLI! He must be unaware that the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, and the Middlesex, who were on this Committee, are recognized as leaders of the Nursing profession; for even Signor MICHELLI would hardly argue that persons who, according to his own statement, drew up the rules of the scheme "never" had that scheme "submitted to them."

5. It is not a matter of History that they (the leaders of the Nursing profession) "retired in a body from the Hospitals' Association." What happened was this. The majority of the Matrons on the Committee retired from it because they disapproved of the way in which its business was conducted, and they have remained in sympathy with the Association ever since. A minority of the Committee, when the majority withdrew from it, including Miss MANSON and Miss WOOD who were of course responsible for the conduct of its business alone retired from the Association and started the British Nurses' Association.

This is curiously and absolutely at variance with the statements concerning this matter issued by the Hospitals' Association in 1888, and repeated, in fuller detail, by the President of that Association in his annual address in that year, and upon which our statements were based. We cannot compliment Signor MICHELLI upon the accuracy of his knowledge of the affairs of the Association of which he is so prominent an official.



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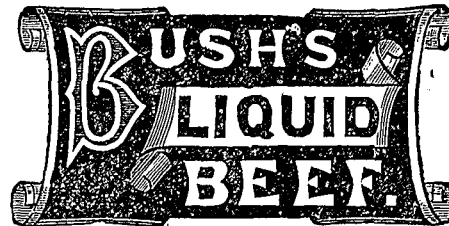
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