

THE prompt action of the R.B.N.A. has, of course, been followed up by the usual feeble counterblast from the *Hospital*. The following appeared on Saturday morning in several papers:—

"SIR—The letter of Princess CHRISTIAN announcing special preparations on the part of the Royal British Nurses' Association to meet demands which may be made upon nurses by an extension of cholera has given general satisfaction. Will you permit me to inform the public through your columns that all the general hospitals of the metropolis have made preparations of a still more reassuring character? Each of them has set apart a ward or wards for cholera patients; sisters of special experience and competent nurses have been appointed; and an adequate staff of physicians is in every case ready to assume authoritative control. The call for volunteers for cholera service has been responded to with zealous alacrity by a much larger number of hospital nurses than are likely to be required. In a word, the wards, physicians, and nurses of all the principal hospitals are in a state of complete preparedness for any and every emergency.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. POTTER, M.D. (Medical Editor  
of the *Hospital*)." \* \* \*

THIS is indeed a re-assuring communication, and coming from such an eminent *medical* authority as the *Hospital*, I feel sure the timorous public will at once cease from troubling. But there are three points which Dr. G. W. POTTER seems to have overlooked; one is that London is not Great Britain and Ireland; the second is that patients of the better classes suffering from cholera require prompt and skilled attention in their own homes in the early stages of the disease; and the third is that a letter like the above, in the lay press, from a gentleman in general practice, is remarkably open to misconstruction in professional circles. The authorities of our General Hospitals and Infirmaries, upon the suggestion of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, have acted with admirable promptitude, and will, if necessary, perform their duty to the nation to the utmost of their ability—no one questions this fact for a moment. But to save further trouble and needless expense, perhaps Dr. G. W. POTTER will kindly go a little further and inform an anxious public of the exact number of cholera cases which are to occur, and the districts in which they will arise, knowledge which he clearly must possess in order to be able to assert so confidently that we are ready "for any and every emergency."

It is very rarely that a Nurse plucks up sufficient courage, even to protest against unfairness or injustice on the part of her Hospital authorities. It is almost unheard of that she should carry her complaint into a Court of Law. There can be little doubt that Miss BELSEY had strong grounds for her

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action, the account of which was given in the NURSING RECORD last week, and considerable surprise has been expressed at the verdict. If it be not an "assault" in an aggravated form, to force a brush down another person's throat against her will, it is very difficult to understand the meaning of the word. As another Nurse was employed to hold Miss BELSEY, it is clear that considerable restraint of her freedom was also used. It seems a great pity that the question of libel was introduced into the case, and that the matter of the assault was not alone relied upon. If Miss BELSEY's lawyers had taken professional advice, they would, of course, have been told that the assault was, medically speaking, an extraordinary one, and that the libel was utterly weak.

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AS IT was, the judge probably imagined that something was applied to the outside of Miss BELSEY's throat, that a Matron of a Hospital is entrusted with the medical charge of the Nurses—and perhaps of the patients as well—and that it is the general custom only to seek medical advice for the Nurses when the Matron's "usual remedies" fail. This is apparently "the rule" in the Worcester Infirmary, but I can assure His Honour Judge Chalmers that it is no more customary for the Matron in other Institutions to undertake the work of the medical staff than it is for that official to curse and swear at her Nurses. Worcester Infirmary is proud in the possession of a Matron who frequently uses "soft words," and of Nurses who, in her polite phraseology, are "asses," "fools," or "idiots." Truly Worcester Infirmary must be a happy place—an elegant cross between a stable and an asylum.

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ON a recent occasion at a pleasant gathering at East Dulwich Grove, Dr. H. ELWIN HARRIS, Medical Superintendent of St. Saviour's Infirmary, was presented with a handsome silver tea service from the whole staff, together with their congratulations and good wishes on his approaching marriage.

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I AM glad to hear that Miss CLARA TIBBITS has been appointed Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester. She was trained at The Royal Infirmary, Manchester, then was Night Superintendent for a year, and for the last two years has held the post of Home Sister in that Institution. *Apropos* of this, there is general pleasure expressed that, under Miss CALVERT's guidance, the Nursing Department of the Royal Infirmary is fully maintaining the high reputation which it gained during the superintendence of Miss BROWNE.

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