

members shall be worthy of their calling, both by knowledge and character; that they shall be treated fairly when students, and, for the common welfare, shall themselves be under some control as practitioners. At the root of all reforms lies the question of their education, and, as we shall show next week, not only does the training of Nurses, to a very large extent, depend upon the character of the Certificate which will testify to their competency, but the exact relations in which Nurses will stand, both to the public and to their Training School, will be determined by the legal conditions under which their Certificates are acquired and held.

THE WORCESTER INFIRMARY SCANDAL.

A Nurse of the Worcester Infirmary was taken ill with a sore throat and a very high temperature. She might have been suffering from Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria, for all the Matron knew, but she was kept at work in the wards, and when she became very bad, was given by the Matron's orders, *three ounces of "white mixture,"* which of course completely prostrated her. Then having discovered that her fauces were "inflamed with white specks" on them, the Matron had the unhappy victim, despite her piteous protestations, held by another Nurse, while she forced her mouth open, and twice, with much roughness, pushed a brush down her inflamed throat, abusing her meanwhile, as an "ass," a "fool," and an "idiot." The violence of these "remedies," and of the language which accompanied it, would appear to ordinary persons inexcusably scandalous, but the Committee not only expressed its approval of the Matron's conduct, but undertook the cost of her defence when the Nurse brought an action against her for this extraordinary assault. It is hopeless to parley with such persons, but we demand that an apology and reparation be made to the Nurse who has been so shamefully and cruelly ill-treated, that the Matron and her assistant in this scene of violence shall be punished, and that, in future, sick Nurses at the Worcester Infirmary shall be medically treated by some member of the medical staff; and we shall reiterate the demand for these measures of bare justice until they are granted.

ALL ALONG THE LINE.

We have told, from time to time, in these columns, of the results in the various parts of the world, which have followed the formation of the Royal British Nurses' Association; the establishment, for example, of the American Nurses' Association; the legalising of Registration of Nurses at the Cape of Good Hope; the publication of the Register of Nurses, and of the Nursing Directory, in this country; the constant institution of reforms in many Hospitals. Now, we learn, that, in another Colony of the Empire, the Government has determined, as soon as possible, to bring in a bill providing for the compulsory Registration of Nurses, and that an Australian Nurses' Association has been formed, on precisely the same lines, and with almost exactly the same Bye-Laws, as the R.B.N.A., and with the avowed hope that, in time, the new Association may be affiliated with the older body. So, year by year, the work grows and extends in influence and

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usefulness. We cordially wish our Australian Sisters complete success. They have special difficulties to contend against, but we hope they will not have to meet the bitter antagonism with which the Association in this country has been assailed. We congratulate the Royal British Nurses' Association on this latest outcome of their work, on the world-wide interest their movement has aroused, and on the rapid progress which their proposals for the Registration of Nurses have made. Some day—when all our Colonies have passed laws protecting their sick against ignorant and careless women usurping the name and responsibilities of Nurses—England will wake up and wonder that it has for so long permitted itself to be blinded to the real work of the Association by those who now fill their pockets by palming off upon the public, badly paid, because utterly incompetent, Nurses.

QUACK CRITICISM.

EVERY dog has his day, and the whirligig of time has given the quack his revenge; inasmuch as he is now enabled by the Press to freely criticise professional affairs and persons. Some time ago everyone was greatly amused at an article, in a paper which is conducted by an official of the Stock Exchange, headed "Sir Andrew Clark taken to task;" and this same journal has since lost comparatively few opportunities of displaying the egregious professional ignorance of its writers. Lately, the English Press expressed its sense of the wise suggestion that a reserve Staff of Nurses should be enrolled at once, in readiness for an epidemic of Cholera. The absolute impossibility of obtaining Nurses, which was experienced during the outbreak of Influenza last winter, supplied indeed ample proof of the necessity of such a provision. *The Hospital*, however, not only attempted to depreciate the value of the movement, which we are glad to hear has been very successful, but last week made most amusing—because most delightfully innocent—criticisms upon a lecture kindly delivered to the volunteer Nurses by a distinguished Fellow of the College of Physicians, and authority upon Cholera; the critic clearly believing that Cholera was very much like Typhoid Fever, only rather more so. If the Cholera does come, we are quite confident that the English nation will not sneer as Mr. Henry C. Burdett's paper does, at "the band of thoughtless enthusiasts," who are now making ready to take their lives in their hands and go wherever this deadly disease attacks, it may be, hundreds of people who, without such "thoughtless enthusiasts," would, as in previous epidemics, be left to suffer and die from sheer lack of proper care.

A MEDICAL MATRON.

THIS is not sarcasm. It is a fact at the Worcester Infirmary, and perhaps even at some other benighted Institution. The Matron is empowered by the Committee to treat the Nurses when ill, but "by the rules" may graciously permit a doctor to see a Nurse if her "usual remedies" fail to cure the patient. This fact was given in sworn evidence recently before a Court of Law. We observe that there is a regular Medical Staff at this Institution, and we most earnestly protest against their unprofessional conduct in permitting the Matron of their Infirmary to diagnose, prognose, and treat cases of illness; in permitting the Committee of their Hospital to delegate the duties which they are appointed to fulfil to an ignorant quack; in permitting their authority in medical matters to be superseded by that of the Matron. As the representative organ of the Nursing Profession we protest against the reversal of the relations which should always exist between the Medical Staff and the Matron of a Hospital, because, if Nurses are taken out of their proper position as subordinate to Doctors infinite friction and ultimate harm, both to Nurses and to the sick, must inevitably result.

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