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Letters to the Editor.

BELSEY *v.* McLELLAND.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—By your two articles on this case, you have placed the general public under a great obligation, and you have rendered a signal service to the nursing profession, for which, I am sure, that Nurses all over the country will be grateful. On account, however, of an assumption made in the first article, I am constrained to ask you to be good enough to allow me space for a few words, in the interests of the plaintiff in the case.

With a view to emphasizing your strong disapproval of Private Nursing Institutions, in connection with one of which Miss Belsey was sent to serve for a year as a Probationer at the Worcester Infirmary, you assume all Miss McLelland said in the letter containing the alleged libel to be quite true; that is, that Miss Belsey was incompetent for the work to which she had resolved to devote her life; and you further assume that—had nothing occurred to prevent Miss Belsey from completing her course at Worcester—in the opinion of the person most responsible for her training—Miss McLelland—she would still have been clearly unfit to undertake the duties of a nurse. Permit me to point out, that the letter, which forms the ground of these assumptions, was written on the very day on which Miss Belsey, of her own accord, left the Infirmary after having her throat forcibly painted, when the temptation would be very strong upon Miss McLelland to represent, in the most unfavourable light, the character and conduct of the departed Probationer. It would not be wise to take a letter, written under such circumstances, as proving anything, except, perhaps, that the lady who wrote it, was, at the time, labouring under strong excitement; but it certainly would not be fair to take such a letter as proving the incompetence of the person about whom it was written.

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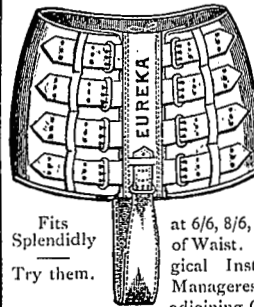
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