

The Nursing Record

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— NOTICES. —

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Books, Pamphlets, &c., for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

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EDITORIAL.

WE have before us a curious production, consisting of a document which is called a "Report of the Joint-Sectional Committee on Registration to the Council of the Hospitals Association," and as our readers will probably hear of it more fully through the pages of a contemporary, we will shortly explain its purport. It must be remembered that it was the Council of the Hospitals Association which last autumn issued the now notorious circular to nurses, "offering to register them"—as it has been well described—"at half-a-crown a head, and after one year's training anywhere or anyhow." That circular, of course, treated nurses as if they were domestic servants, and offered to do for them what any registry office in the kingdom does for housemaids and cooks, giving

them precisely the same advantages! The only result of the circular was, as far as can be gathered, that nearly every well-known matron—then a member—seceded from the Hospitals Association *at once*. This Joint-Sectional Committee was appointed in December last, because the British Nurses' Association was formed with the avowed purpose of placing nursing upon a proper footing, and making it a recognised profession, and securing a royal charter to enable really trained nurses to be legally registered as such, and so distinguished from women who were not found worthy of the name. The Hospitals Association evidently means to oppose nurses obtaining this honourable position by every endeavour in its power. Nurses, aided by the leading medical men, who belong to the British Nurses' Association will eventually attain their objects we are firmly convinced, however much the Hospitals Association may strive to prevent it. In this report we learn that a circular containing nine questions was sent out to thirty-four nurse training schools! It is amusing to find that only nineteen of these answered any of the questions at all, and of these about six alone seem to have answered the whole. The report confesses that *eight* of the nineteen answers were decidedly in favour of a general scheme of registration for nurses being adopted. The Sectional Committee, judging by their report, has come to the only conclusion it could come to, viz., that as there is evidently no burning public anxiety for the Hospitals Association to legislate for nurses or act in the matter in any way, it must follow that there can be no necessity for trained nurses to be registered at all, except upon the books of their respective hospitals!

WE have much pleasure in announcing that Miss Mollett has undertaken to write for this journal a series consisting of six articles on six necessary nursing characteristics, to be severally entitled—Honour, Purity, Courage, Discipline, Culture, and Love. We are also in treaty with several well-known writers to furnish these columns with a series of lectures on Special Nursing, such as that of Women and Children, Fever Nursing, &c. Once more we appeal to our readers to contribute articles, items of gossip, hospital news, &c.

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