

From this time onward the case may possibly improve under judicious treatment, but far more probably it will go from bad to worse, showing but slight signs of healing, the patient daily deteriorating, the temperature constantly high, or jumping wildly from subnormal in the morning to 100, 101, 102, or 103 deg. at night. Emaciation, with heavy night sweats, comes on, and the patient sinks under the stress of exhaustive discharges, persistent or intermittent high temperatures, and an utter inability to digest or even to take nourishment.

In the last case I have italicised certain words, so as to point out the mistakes made, and the lapses from strict antiseptic treatment which occur. You will understand these better if you read this over again, when you have mastered the remainder of what I have to say.

(To be continued.)

— ON REGISTRATION. —

By CATHERINE J. WOOD.

THERE seems to be so much misapprehension abroad concerning the British Nurses' Association, what it proposes to do and in what manner, that perhaps a few words really to the point may not be amiss. Some "inspired" persons have constructed a Frankenstein who will rule the Nursing Profession with a rod of iron, impose such terms of training, examination and contract as pleases its sweet will, accept or reject candidates according to its sovereign majesty, act imperiously towards Nursing Schools, and in every way trample upon existing rights. This creature is the "creation of a frenzied brain, the outcome of a conscience ill at ease," or the "evolution from an inner consciousness"; but it is not the British Nurses' Association's scheme for the Registration of Nurses. The scheme is just this, neither more nor less: the Association proposes that a Register shall be kept, in which shall be entered the names of Nurses, the places from which they obtained their certificates, and their residences. The authority to decide whether any Nurse's name is to be placed on the Register will be a Board composed of Doctors and Matrons, who will examine into the certificate of training and testimonials of personal character furnished by the applicant, and if these are found to be genuine and satisfactory, that Nurse will be Registered.

That some independent body is necessary will be a self-evident fact, as otherwise there would be no guarantee to the public that only fit persons were placed on the Register.

But there is nothing here about theoretical ex-

aminations, about reducing the art of Nursing to a dead level, about interfering between training schools and their pupils, about overriding the right of Hospitals to grant their Nurses certificates; on the contrary, there seems the fullest latitude for each Hospital to develop on its own lines, and to enter on a friendly rivalry in the race to perfection.

Yet some may be saying, "But we know better; there will be examinations when the Royal Charter is obtained," and to a certain extent that prophetic person is right. For consider, at the present time there are a large number of women practising as Nurses who have been trained in small or Cottage Hospitals, who have no certificate from a recognised Nursing School to show, and yet who have a thorough knowledge of their work. It would be a great injustice to these women to exclude them from the Register, if they could satisfy an examining body of their proficiency, and also it would be a great injustice to these smaller Hospitals to refuse to recognise their Nurses as professionally qualified to tend the sick. For such the portal to the Register might be local examinations. But these examinations would probably be instituted by the authorities of the leading Nurse Training Schools in each locality.

It is quite impossible for the recognised Training Schools for Nurses to train all the Nurses required to meet the present demand, and here the smaller Hospitals would find scope for their Nurses, if only they could prove to the public that they have a knowledge of their work; for after all is said and done, the aim and object of all is one—to ensure to the Nurse a proper training, to ensure to the public a properly trained Nurse.

To the opponents of this scheme we would say, "What do you wish?" Is there any other plan that will meet the present need? It is of no use saying that the need does not exist; no one can shut their eyes to it, either from the Hospital point of view (unqualified women trading upon the name of a well-established Hospital), or from the public side (the sick tended by untrained women). Like honest people we had better face the evil and grapple with it. The British Nurses' Association, with the active support of the leaders of the Medical Profession, proposes a scheme which has worked well for other professions; but it does not claim to be infallible. If you have a better scheme, produce it, and let us discuss it fairly and squarely.

[This article of Miss Wood's, marked "quite unofficial," we must explain, has been in type in our office for some time, and, therefore, was written long before Dr. Sansom's letter appeared last week.—ED.]

A FAINT heart is the consequence of a feeble faith.—MASSILLON.

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