

will give some measure of protection to the sick against the grave dangers to which they are now exposed. We believe that the implicated Hospitals will have cause to regret their present attitude, and we are convinced that they are fighting against the inevitable, and, indeed, against their own advantage.

Mr. BURDETT was not content to leave, as it stood, the extraordinary statement which we have quoted. After asserting that the Hospital authorities would "call up and deal with" Nurses over whom they could have no possible control—the acme of absurdity—he continued thus: "So that the public really have adequate protection in that way. The contention is, that they have not; and in order to put things right, an outside body, which has nothing to do with the training of Nurses, proposes to issue, and has issued, a Certificate to such Nurses as it pleases to arbitrarily select." It is, perhaps, unnecessary to treat this rigmarole gravely, but it is a matter of great wonder to us how Mr. BURDETT could have made statements so palpably misleading to so important a body as the Select Committee of the House of Lords. To begin with, Mr. BURDETT surely has not forgotten his own exertions to bring about the Registration of Nurses, and his own declaration that such a system is greatly needed, and "has in fact been too long delayed," made only four years ago. Mr. BURDETT, furthermore, omitted to inform their Lordships that so anxious was he for Registration, that he caused powers to be taken, in the Articles of Association of an Insurance Company for Nurses, to undertake this work in case the Royal British Nurses' Association failed in its endeavours to carry it out.

Mr. BURDETT's views as to the management of a Hospital—we have showed, in connection with his evidence about King's College—display the most amusing ignorance. This is further exemplified by the following extract from his evidence: "We want the public to understand that, unlike Doctors, it is the character of the woman herself that is the essential matter in regard to Nurses. The difficulty now is that when you get them into the house they may be like the east wind; they may be excellent institution Nurses, but utterly unfitted for private Nurses. Now the Matrons who trained the Nurses, knowing the character of the women from the first to the last, are able to sort the Nurses to the cases; and in that way the Doctor and the public get exactly

what they want." The grotesque absurdity of this last paragraph will be apparent to most of our readers—who are doubtless aware that Nurses when they finish their training, generally leave their Hospital; that only in a very small minority of cases do they remain to work on its private Nursing staff; and that, in fact, very few Hospitals send out Private Nurses at all. Mr. BURDETT, however, inferred, and clearly desired their Lordships to believe, that the public stood in no need of protection because Nurses went on working at the same Institution for ever, and the moment a Nurse was wanted, there was one ready—just "sorted to the case." We shall look forward with the greatest interest to the next lucubrations of Mr. BURDETT on this subject, and trust that he will be good enough to favour the world with his matured views upon "Rules for the sorting of Nurses." Mr. BURDETT—as we showed a fortnight ago—has wonderful and original views on the physiological process of "drying up," and the immortality of pensioned Nurses. The east wind is popularly supposed to have a peculiarly desiccating tendency, and it is, doubtless, in this connection that Mr. BURDETT compares it to Nurses. They will, we feel confident, be highly flattered at his opinion of their blustering behaviour.

But, it being admitted, as any professional person will immediately do, that it is an absolute impossibility, and ridiculous supposition, that Nurses are, as a rule, sent out to private cases by the Matrons who trained them, it follows—even on Mr. BURDETT's own showing—that Nurses as a general rule are *not* "sorted to the cases." Consequently, on his own argument, it clearly follows—that the doctor and the public do *not* get exactly what they want. Therefore, the public has *not* "got adequate protection;" and therefore there is a clear necessity for Registration. We need not discuss the matter at greater length. Mr. BURDETT has innocently and unintentionally—but quite conclusively—proved that we are entirely justified in our constant demand for the protection of the sick from ignorant and incompetent Nurses.

The news which we have just received from South Africa, and to which we allude in another column, proves how unbiased minds regard this question. Public opinion is rapidly becoming educated upon the question; and the action of the Cape Parliament will give an immense stimulus to the movement.

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