

Nurses, which was established in memory of the late Lady AUGUSTA STANLEY. The Lady Superintendent of the Training School is elected by its Committee, and then the Hospital Board must appoint this lady as Matron of the Hospital. She is paid £180 a-year by the Training School, the Hospital provides her with board and lodging, but has no control over her, and cannot—if it wished to do so—dismiss her from her post without the consent of the Committee of the Training School. In short, the Westminster Hospital has practically no control over its Matron or its Nursing Staff. This seems a sufficiently curious arrangement, and at first we naturally imagined that the Hospital must be nursed gratuitously by the Training School Committee. Our surprise at the following facts will be shared by many of our readers. By an agreement, dated the 3rd day of August, 1880, between the Hospital and the Training School, it is, amongst other things, provided that the Hospital shall pay the School £1,700 a-year for the services of not less than twenty six nurses and not more than twenty-five Probationers; and that any further Nurses which may be required shall be paid for separately and additionally. As a matter of fact, the balance-sheet produced by the Matron showed that the Hospital in the previous year paid "for Nurses' services" £1,955. And so arises a most interesting financial calculation.

The total amount expended by the School in salaries and board for the Nursing Staff can only be little, if any, more than the amount paid by the Hospital for their services. On the other hand, the School has the great advantage of training women in the Hospital, whom it then sends out as Private Nurses, at very considerable profit to its funds. For example, a very simple calculation shows that the salaries of the Private Nursing Staff amounted in the year under discussion to about £1,600, while the receipts from their labour is given at £4,162. The commercial advantage of the connection of the Private Nursing business with the public Charity is too self-evident to need any further comment. Why the Committee of a Hospital, however, should relinquish their control over its most important department to an outside commercial undertaking which makes large profit thereby, is to us, we confess, a matter of considerable surprise.

We have only space to briefly summarise some of the other important facts stated by Miss PYNE, whose evidence, like that of Miss GORDON, of St.

Thomas's Hospital—upon which we recently commented—is remarkably clear and commendably brief, and in striking contrast to the voluminous verbosity which has characterised the replies of other witnesses. Miss PYNE estimated the number of Nurses off duty as from one to three "on the average." This means a sick rate of less than two per cent., which we imagine is considerably less than that at most other Institutions. As to holidays, the Probationers have a fortnight the first year, and three weeks in the second and third years; the Nurses have one day each month, and three weeks each year; the Sisters get a month in each year, and often a few days besides. We are glad to be able to highly commend this, because we cannot approve of Miss PYNE's views upon the work which Nurses should do. In this we are in striking accord with Mr. RATHBONE, and the following contrasted questions and answers are instructive:—

MR. RATHBONE.

If menial duties are performed by Nurses, do not you think it wrong? I should think it very wrong, and should be surprised to learn that in any well-managed Hospital those were duties imposed upon them.

MISS PYNE.

Do these Nurses have to perform what are termed menial duties? Yes, a good many; they have to sweep and dust and wash up and to keep their sculleries clean; they have to do everything except the floors and grates.

Miss PYNE, like all other Hospital Matrons with one striking exception, visits the Wards every day; and in reply to the invariable question as to the power of dismissal she informed their Lordships that she had full power to dismiss a Probationer, but could not dismiss a Nurse or Sister.

Finally, the important fact was elicited that there is no fixed term of training necessary before the Training School sends out its Probationers as Private Nurses; that they are rarely sent out under a year, but presumably are very often launched upon the sick in private houses after they have received that very limited amount of experience of disease. This fact at once explains why the Training School so vehemently objects to the "Register of Trained Nurses," upon whose pages, the names of its employées after only one year's Ward work would naturally not appear—and we commend it, therefore, to the notice of those who are now, we understand, about to call public attention to the reasons for the opposition to this much-needed measure of protection to the sick, and of justice to thoroughly trained Nurses.

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