

this country, which have adopted that standard. He has discovered that several other Hospitals actually pay their Probationers, and will perhaps be surprised to learn that in former days this was the invariable custom. He considered that although there had been no difficulty in getting ladies to pay for two years' training at Addenbrooke's, that "it was quite another thing to pay for three years"—an argument which is doubtless true, but is certainly not conclusive. Mr. WOOD will probably still remain "unpersuaded of the wisdom of the proposal" when we inform him that the leading Hospitals, with very few exceptions, not only in this country but in the colonies, have found it impossible to work their Nursing departments successfully with anything less than a three years' training, and that the great success of Addenbrooke's in the past is the best possible guarantee of its greater success if worked on more modern lines.

Mr. COCKERELL, who seconded Mr. WOOD's proposal, was more intelligible because his objection consisted of the argument that the object of a Hospital was "to cure diseases and to remedy accidents which patients were suffering from." He thought that this primary object was gradually slipping into a third place. "The first object seemed to be the Training Institution and to have a Medical School, and he for one did not subscribe his two guineas a year for a Training School." It is most difficult to answer such arguments, and it would be perhaps futile to point out in reply that the patients cannot be materially benefitted when they are placed in the beds maintained by the annual subscribers' guineas, unless they have some one to attend upon them; and, in the next place, that Nurses are not, as a general rule, of extreme service to the patients unless they have imbibed, at any rate, some elementary ideas concerning the various duties of nursing the sick.

The marvel to most people is, as it would be also to Mr. WOOD and Mr. COCKERELL, if they understood the subject, that Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, has actually provided its patients with skilled Nursing at an infinitesimal charge to the funds of the Institution. If those who oppose the improvements desire the patients to receive the best possible attention they must give them the best possible Nursing, and, therefore, they must retain the Probationers in their service as long as possible. It will be difficult to make those who have no comprehension of the work understand our meaning, but it is a fact that Probationers who are only trained for two years, who only pay for that period, and who at the end of that time receive their certificate, are then in the habit of leaving the Institution; whereas if those Probationers, with the skill and experience acquired in their two years' training, could be retained in the service of the Institution for a third year, their assistance to the patients would be manifestly more valuable than that of young women who, coming

fresh to the work, would, under the present two years' system, be then occupying their places. Everybody who knows anything at all about the matter is well aware of this simple common-sense fact, and that it is because of the desire of the educated laymen who manage other Hospitals—guided by the experience of their medical and nursing staff—to afford their patients the best possible nursing attention, that the three years' system has been adopted in order to replace the one year's or the two years' standard formerly in vogue.

For the sake of the patients in Addenbrooke's Hospital, we hope that the Governors of the Institution will be guided by their medical staff and Matron; and that the valuable improvements which their Committee has suggested—and to which, we venture to consider, sufficient praise can hardly be given—will be adopted as speedily as possible.

LORD SANDHURST.

An interesting ceremony took place, last Saturday, at the Middlesex Hospital, when Lord Sandhurst was presented with a testimonial from his colleagues at that Institution in recognition of the great services which he has rendered to the Hospital. Lord Sandhurst holds a unique position amongst the lay managers of Hospitals, and he has shown a brilliant example to others in the painstaking manner with which he has sought to acquaint himself with the actual working of such Institutions and with the necessities of their organisation. His work as Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, which inquired in 1890 and 1891 into the management of the Hospitals in the Metropolis, commanded general respect, and entitled him to the position which he has since held amongst workers in the Hospital world—the position of one who is an acknowledged master of his subject. Nurses have every reason to feel grateful to Lord Sandhurst because no inconsiderable part of the Report of his Committee was devoted to the discussion of the proper conditions of the Nursing Departments of Hospitals, and the recommendations which that Committee made have had the greatest effect ever since in causing reforms and improvements. The Committee recommended that Nurses' hours should be shorter, that their remuneration should be better, and, above all, laid down the principle that no Nurse could be fairly described as thoroughly trained until she had passed through a minimum period of three years' Hospital training. Only recently, indeed, this opinion of the Select Committee was quoted at Addenbrooke's Hospital by those desirous of improvements in that Institution. It certainly is not too much to say that if, within the next five years, Nursing legislation is proposed, the absence of Lord Sandhurst from the House of Lords will be greatly felt, because he probably understands the subject better than any other member of that House. We join most cordially with our contemporaries in expressing the hope that Lord Sandhurst may have a most pleasant and prosperous term of government in Bombay, and we doubt not that he will there exhibit the same administrative ability which has secured him so high a position in the estimation of the public and of the Government in this country.

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