

sional career, as recorded on the *Medical Register*, throws no light upon the subject.

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No Matron holding a position of importance, is nominated on the Matrons' list, and for Sisters and nurses eleven are engaged in private nursing in London, and thus well under control, and seven out of the thirty members were trained at St. George's Hospital, the Matron of which institution has not supported the non-registration policy of the present régime. We are pleased, however, to observe that St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the nursing staff of which worked so splendidly for professional organization and reform before the revision of the Bye-Laws, does not propose to fill the vacancy which occurs on the retirement in rotation of Sister Matthew.

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SEVERAL nurses who have failed to gain the certificate of this school have been permitted to pay a guinea for so-called "registration," and to become members of the R.B.N.A. It is, therefore, wise of the certificated members of the nursing staff of any hospital to cease to support a system which attempts to supersede their very valuable guarantee of training; and now that the certificate of this School entitles to membership of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, the nurses are able to connect themselves with an Association, the united opinion of which, on nursing matters, must, in the future, carry great weight upon questions touching their interests.

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AN advisory Committee has recently been appointed in connection with the management of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Amongst the candidates nominated were two ladies, Mrs. King Roberts and Miss Hargood, but, unfortunately, only men were elected. The former lady would have been well qualified for the work with which the Committee will have to deal. She is a niece of the late Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sir Sydney Waterlow, and for some time before her marriage held the position of Home Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, so that she has valuable practical knowledge of hospital administration in so far as it relates to the domestic comfort of the nursing staff, and would have supported the Lady Superintendent in her desire for greatest efficiency in this important department.

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THE Guardians of the Scarborough Union are still discussing the difficulties in connection with their nursing staff. With regard to the resignation of two nurses which we have already reported, owing to information which had been received

from the Local Government Board, questions were asked at the last meeting of the Board as to the validity of their testimonials. It was stated that the testimonials were correct, but the difficulty was there had been a gap between the testimonials. A certain time previous to the last dated testimonials had elapsed.

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THE question was then asked how it was that the Board did not know that, and it appears to us that it was the business of the Board to know it. At the same time, the reply of the Chairman, Sir Charles Legard, Bart., is most significant:—"The Local Government Board were the first to find it out, because they kept a Register, and that Board did not. The nurses had been at Shoreditch, and they did not tell the Board so, and the Board could not have second sight, and know every place where the nurses had been." The value of a Register being so apparent, the wonder is that a public Register is not demanded. When this subject is brought forward, it should receive the support of the Local Government Board, who have proved the value of their own Register.

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A LAMENTABLE affair, resulting in the loss of two lives, has occurred at Murthly Asylum. It appears that Nurse Syme had gone out with two patients for a walk along the banks of the River Tay, a favourite promenade for convalescent patients. One of the patients, named M'Farlane, suddenly left the nurse and jumped into the river at a part where the water is about 15 feet deep. Miss Syme, without a moment's hesitation, sprang in after her with a view to rescuing her. Being unable to swim, both women were carried down the stream and drowned. These facts were gleaned from the other patient who accompanied Miss Syme. She immediately ran to a neighbouring farm and raised the alarm. The people there, however, observing her excited condition and knowing that she belonged to the Asylum, refused to believe her statement. The woman then proceeded to the Asylum and informed the authorities of what had occurred. A party at once started for the spot, but on their arrival no trace of the bodies could be found. Boats were sent out and a search was kept up, so far without success. M'Farlane was a middle-aged woman, while Miss Syme was about 35 years of age. Miss Syme had been connected with the Asylum for a considerable time, and was greatly respected by the patients, her colleagues, and superiors. The incident has cast a deep gloom over the district.

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