

Colston, rough-tongued, scolding, not seldom rather tipsy; and yet very watchful and really very helpful, especially in what she felt to be good cases. On the whole, indeed, it may be fairly said that the sisters were among the very best nurses of the time. The ordinary nurses were not so; the greater part of them were rough, dull, unobservant and untaught women; of the best it could only be said that they were kindly and careful and attentive in doing what they were told to do."

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE NURSES.

In 1887 Sir James Paget, the Duke of Westminster and Sir Rutherford Alcock, were appointed trustees of the Women's Jubilee Offering, to consider and report upon a scheme for applying it to the public advantage. Upon their suggestion the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses was founded with the object of providing trained nurses to the sick poor in their own homes. Eventually a Charter of Incorporation was granted to this body, and by the pleasure of her late Majesty the Institute was associated with the Royal and Religious Foundation of St. Katherine's Hospital, Regent's Park. Henceforth, Sir James Paget took the greatest interest in the Institute, and was present at Windsor when her Majesty received the "Queen's Nurses" in 1897.

REGISTRATION.

THE NURSING RECORD has already quoted at length Sir James Paget's views with regard to the State Registration of Nurses, in which he expressed himself in no uncertain terms as "for" registration. In relation to his connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association it is noteworthy how wise and far-seeing was his judgment at the time of its formation. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose relations with him while at St. Bartholomew's Hospital had been of the happiest and most cordial description, called upon him in Harewood Place to ask him to become a Vice-President of the Association. Courteous as ever, he acceded to the request, but at the same time said, "I will willingly become a Vice-President if it is any help to you, but the Registration of Nurses is the Matrons' business. I would rather take the opinion of a Matron as to a nurse than that of anyone else." There was a depth of wisdom in these words, which time alone fully demonstrated.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

In November, 1897, the time when the Hon. Officers of the Association were making strenuous efforts to "whip up" influential medical men to come to the special general meeting in December, and support them in carrying through the new Bye-Laws, which would largely deprive the nurse-members of self-government, Sir James Paget wrote to Sir Henry Acland concerning this Association:—"I am glad that something has brought me the pleasure of a letter from you—the only pleasure I have to thank that Association for. I had the same papers sent to me, and had decided that the best plan for me was to send no answer. Your letter, implying the same wish in your own mind, makes me sure that we are both of us right. I have never taken any share in the business of the Association, and have been strictly a Vice-President; and have not studied any of the reasons of the dispute, or been near any of the meetings about it." This silent and deliberate contempt was quite in

keeping with Sir James Paget's peace-loving nature, and dislike of contention; nevertheless there will always be reason to regret that the leaders of the medical profession did not acquaint themselves with the causes of the "dispute," and support the just claims of the nurses for self-government. Sir James' views on professional self-government leave no room for doubt as to the attitude he would have adopted. The fact that distinguished medical men, with very few exceptions, stood aside, left the interests of the nurse-members at this crisis mainly in the hands of medical men with whom such men as Sir James Paget would scarcely, in the course of their own professional work, come in contact.

LAST DAYS.

In March, 1898, failing health compelled Sir James Paget to avail himself of the help of a nurse, and "from this time onward Nurse Finn gave him most skilful attendance." His nurse writes of his daily drives, "They were a source of great pleasure to him, and we often extended them to a long distance. He watched with the keenest interest everything that we passed, and often pointed out special buildings and places. He greatly loved driving in the City, and would ask to go past St. Bartholomew's, that he might see the Hospital, and his own old rooms in Little Britain. Before starting he invariably inquired if anyone wanted to be taken anywhere, and I am sure the drive was much more enjoyed by him if he could help anyone. We sometimes took a hand camera with us, and I well remember how he insisted on going even a third time to Greenwich, to let me take a snapshot of the Observatory, because he thought I was disappointed at having failed twice."

IN CONCLUSION.

There is no space to enlarge upon the personal career of Sir James Paget, or to tell how, after bitter poverty, riches came to him as the result of his brilliant professional attainments, so that at one time he was making £10,000 a year by his practice, of the distinctions that were heaped upon him, of his scientific achievements, of his gentle loving and courteous personality, and much else besides. I have endeavoured to extract from a book which teems with interest from cover to cover those portions which are of most direct interest in a nursing journal, and even here have been compelled ruthlessly to excise where I have desired to quote. All should hasten to procure the book and read it for themselves.

M. B.

Metropolitan Asylums Board.

At the last meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board a letter was read from the Kensington Guardians, expressing their opinion that it was desirable the Board should obtain the necessary authority to receive and treat by the "Finsen Light" the cases of lupus under the care of Metropolitan Boards of Guardians. It was also reported that the School Board for London had applied to the Children's Committee asking if Miss Lockington, who is to be appointed, as a nurse, to report on the presence of ring-worm in the schools of the Board, could obtain a month's experience under the Asylums Board in observing the latest methods of treatment.

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