

career, and then given it up, and were content to take salaries of some £400 a year? He would prefer to select a man who had been successful in his own profession or department.

As to economy, Guy's, which was instanced as an example of a hospital governed by a Medical Superintendent, was not more economically managed than others. Even the much-abused Bart.'s came out at £1 a bed lower. Did being a member of the medical profession teach a man how to buy food? As for checking those precious bandages, he knew something of the capacity of nurses and students in wasting them. Any layman could learn all there was to know on that subject in six months. If Sir Henry Burdett ever dared to show his face in print again, and say Guy's was managed more cheaply than other hospitals, he was ready for him with figures to prove the contrary. If the Superintendent there had succeeded, it was not because he was a medical man, but in spite of it.

Sir Henry Burdett said it was always a pleasure to listen to Mr. Sydney Holland; he was very humorous if he was not very precise, and was one of the most attractive personages he knew. (Groans, and "Oh, don't!" from Mr. Holland.) The speaker was of opinion that the question of control could not be divorced from that of finance. The personal supervision which a Secretary concerned in raising funds had not time to give was essential. He believed in one great hospital it was held that efficient control could be exercised by all the departments being connected with a central telephone office.

Mr. Holland here remarked that that was such an idiotic statement, might he have the name of Sir Henry's informant. To which Sir Henry replied with some asperity that Mr. Holland might ask for it, but he should not give it. He maintained that the appointment of a medical man who could control every item of expenditure, made for efficiency, comfort, and economy.

Mr. William Morton, Secretary, Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead, thought that any secretary could furnish information as to expenditure on items, although his system of keeping his books might not be precisely the same as that advocated by Dr. Mackintosh. He did not see how there could be two heads unless the Secretary was to act solely as accountant. He believed some time ago Sir Henry Burdett had said he doubted whether the two could work together.

Dr. Mackintosh, in reply, said so far as he was concerned he had not taken up hospital work because he was a failure in medicine. He had never gone into private practice. His salary was double that mentioned by Mr. Holland. He held that if a secretary collected funds he had no time for general supervision.

Mr. Holland here explained that at the London the Secretary did not collect funds, that was not in his department. Then why call him secretary? said Dr. Mackintosh. Why not call him secretary? argued Mr. Holland. Beggar, not Secretary, would be the best name for the man who collected the funds. (N.B.—Mr. Holland himself is accorded the honour of being the most successful beggar in the Metropolis.) Dr. Mackintosh, with some warmth, declined to discuss the subject in so flippant a manner. It was, he said, far too serious. Mr. Holland's remarks had no bearing on the subject.

A few more amenities and the meeting terminated after the usual votes of thanks.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### LETTER FROM HOLLAND.

More uniformity in the training and examination of nurses, a higher nursing standard, the banishing of



unwished for and unworthy elements from the nursing ranks, these are the ideals by which are stirred all those who are really willing to promote the

case of sick-nursing. State Registration is the panacea for which thousands and thousands of voices are crying, and there are countries where State Registration has been already brought into action and with quite satisfactory results. We have only to think of the New York State and to read the annual report of the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners. The number of countries, however, where State Registration is only a future music, more or less distant, is far greater for the time being, and to this large majority also belong "the low lands on the sea," the Netherlands, from which your correspondent has the honour of sending you this letter.

*State Registration.*—A utopian idea for the present, here in Holland! Yet it would be a most sore mistake to conclude from this fact a lack of energy and warm interest on the part of the leading persons in our Dutch nursing-world. As the time does not seem ripe for State Registration, the Dutch Nursing Association, the "Bond," thinks it its duty to act in some sense as the substitute of the State in this matter, as will be seen from the report sent in by the Committee consisting of four medical men and the Matron of one of our first-grade hospitals, charged at the latest annual meeting of the "Bond" with the study of the problems affecting the training and examination of nurses.

Before forming a strong opinion as to the regulation of the questions already mentioned, the Committee has judged it advisable to get into touch with the Boards of Nurse Examiners that are now in this country giving their certificates, each on its own authority. The results of the conferences, held with the delegates of the different Boards, have been laid down in the following recommendations:—

*Preliminary education.*—All hospitals and such-like institutions which have undertaken the training of nurses, shall require of pupils applying for admission the possession of a certain amount of general development and breeding.

At the general meeting of the "Bond," June 1, last year, the urgent necessity of some preliminary education was unanimously acknowledged. When the applying candidate is lacking in the required proofs of some preliminary education, the way in which she may remedy this deficiency must be left to the judgment of the Hospital Boards, as well as the amount of time, that is required for it. The Hospital Boards have thus to fix the epoch of the beginning of the proper training.

*Admission to the Hospital Training-School.*—All candidates applying for admission must produce evidence of a good state of health and of blameless conduct.

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