

got all they asked for. That it was not primarily their purpose to mark or pursue the individual woman but to reach and influence the schools. That while a good nurse might not feel any present effect from the laws, the effect on the schools was marked and far reaching, as active steps were being taken by hospitals to improve their methods, as a natural feeling of pride was stimulated. That the public responded most encouragingly when the points at issue were explained, and that they had met with most cordial support from the press and the members of the legislatures. That the higher standards attracted a better grade of applicant, but she asked here to point out that American Matrons had always stood firm in excluding probationers coming from what in Europe were called the servant and peasant classes. Women from these elements had never been admitted to training. While she would not say that all their nurses were all that one could wish, yet she thought this fact had saved them much trouble. That the fees paid for registration (£1 or £2) promised to be sufficient for expenses.* That expenses had to be paid from this fund, as there was no other from which they could be paid. If this sum was not enough, it would have to be raised.

Finally, in reference to a point previously raised, she remarked that the professions in America considered that in defining their standards they had their lay representation in the legislatures, which considered the Bills from the public standpoint. The legislators had all had illness in their families; they were all employers of nurses. Some had had good nurses, which was fortunate for the nursing law, and it was equally fortunate that others had had very bad nurses. That in some States a periodical renewal of licence was required, with small additional fee (4s.), but that this was not a revision of character.

In answer to a question, she stated that while their Bills were all permissive, she thought compulsory registration would be the ideal, as she believed it to be the ideal condition that every woman who nursed the sick should have had the proper preparation.

Tuesday, May 16th.

MR. UPTON'S EVIDENCE.

On Tuesday, 16th inst., the members of the Committee present were Mr. H. J. Tennant (in the chair), Lord Morpeth, Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Sir John Batty Tuke, Major Balfour, Mr. C. Douglas, Mr. Mount, Mr. Pierpoint, and Dr. Hutchinson.

The first witness called was Mr. Upton, who said he represented a large medical licensing body, the Society of Apothecaries. It might be said to represent general practitioners.

The witness said the Society was against the Registration of Nurses, which it considered unnecessary and undesirable, and not calculated to assist the public or the medical man. The general family practitioner considered that the nurse at present held the position which she ought to hold—viz., one entirely subordinate to the medical practitioner. Registration might make her set herself upon the co-equal of the doctor and might be prejudicial to him. She might be called in independently of the doctor, or doctor and nurse might be trying to manage the patient in a different way.

In answer to the Chairman as to why Registration

* We gather that this fee merely registers a nurse in one State, and that, in the case of New York, much of the expense is borne by the Department of the Regents of that State.—Ed.

should create antagonism between the doctor and nurse, the witness admitted that this was a point of speculative opinion, and that the better educated woman the more inclined she would be to do what was right. The witness further urged that assuming Registration were enforced, his Society, representing general practitioners, who would be most affected by a Nurses' Registration Act, should be represented on the Council formed. It was not necessarily against the principle of Registration, but wished to ensure its being properly carried out.

In reply to a question from the chairman as to whether the apprehensions of the Society had been realised in relation to the recent Midwives' Act, the witness replied that it maintained its hostility to midwives. The witness also stated that the point was Registration would make nursing into a profession; there was much more fuss, and most unnecessary fuss about nursing nowadays than there used to be. Now, no one could have a slight ailment before in came a nurse before it was possible to say Jack Robinson.

The Chairman suggested that the anxiety for the welfare of the sick had always been the same, but that now there was more knowledge.

The witness considered that not knowledge, but manner, was necessary in a nurse. An unsympathetic nurse might have all the knowledge in the world, but she would not be much good. That was the view of his Society generally.

Registration, if enforced, should be within due limits, and the Society of Apothecaries should have representation.

In reply to questions, the witness feared that Registration would have the effect of shifting the responsibility from the medical man who now usually selected the nurse. The registration of institutions might be desirable. If nurses were registered they would be liable to give themselves airs with the doctor and the household.

SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE'S EVIDENCE.

The next witness called was Sir James Crichton Browne, who said he was a Fellow of the Royal Society and Lord Chancellor's Visitor in Lunacy. He considered that the present conditions in the nursing world were not satisfactory, and demanded improvement. There were many incompetent and inefficient nurses about. There was also a want of uniformity in training. Registration would afford a means whereby the ignorant and incompetent could be weeded out. There was not the least reason for supposing that Registration would give a false hall mark to nurses. What it would do would be to establish a minimum standard of knowledge, and create what is known as the "one portal" system of entrance to the nursing profession. But, beyond this minimum, progress would still go on. When a man had attained the minimum standard necessary for admission to the medical profession he still in many instances took higher degrees, and his standing was determined by those degrees. No one, for instance, would contend that an M.D. of Oxford had not a higher standing than a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries. The enforcement of a minimum qualification would exclude the incompetent and untrustworthy.

It was not suggested that the establishment of a Register of Nurses would abolish the need for all further inquiries; what it would assert was, that in the opinion of the hospital concerned, which had had ample opportunities of judging, a woman was morally and

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