

were kept on the move continually, the method was distinctly not a happy one, or calculated to make her as efficient as she should be. She should have time for deliberate observation. No probationer should be sent out to nurse private cases before she had completed her training. He considered that the technical part of a nurse's work could be thoroughly learnt in twelve months, the rest was experience.

The objects of State Registration were—(1) to secure that every nurse should pass an examination followed by registration, (2) that the registered nurse should be protected from the pseudo nurse, (3) that the public should be protected against criminals, (4) uniformity.

These objects could be attained by better, simpler, and less expensive means.

Amongst the assertions made by the witness were that the Registration Bills before Parliament did not recognise hospital authorities, that the fee of £5 5s. proposed was prohibitive. Why, he inquired, should nurses be made to pay £5 5s. while doctors only paid £5. Criticising the constitution of the Council proposed in Mr. Munro Ferguson's Bill, the witness stated that the education of nurses was as important as that of the medical profession. Such a Council should be organised on lines which would ensure that the selection of those who control the nursing profession should not be left to the haphazard results of a popular election, but should be representative of the interests concerned. The Council was apparently representative, but this impression was wholly misleading. The best people would not be put on. A Central Nursing Council should be formed on the lines of the General Medical Council. The panacea for present evils, suggested by the witness who admitted that "something must be done," was that Parliament should enact that all Training-Schools should be registered and inspected, such registration to be conditional on the maintenance of an efficient standard. It should be provided that each hospital must afford its certificated nurses an opportunity of joining its private nursing staff. It was important that nurses should look more and more to the schools where they were trained, that the public should look to the hospitals for their nurses, and that the hospitals should be granted powers to cancel certificates. An Act on these lines, in the opinion of the witness, would be "highly efficacious," and the registration fee would be paid by the institution, not the nurse. The public would then send to the hospitals for their trained nurses. The hospitals had paid the piper, and should have a strong voice in the control of nurses. Referring to the profits made by nursing institutions, the witness pointed out that Mr. Sydney Holland had admitted a profit of £4,000 in one year on the earnings of the private nursing staff at the London Hospital.

Some provision must be made for the floating army of irregulars. These could be organised under "Lord Rothschild's scheme."

The witness suggested that his scheme did not interfere with the independent nurse. She would be hall-marked through the certificate of registration issued through her training-school. The nurse should be tied up to the training-school. He had reason to believe his proposals would be welcomed by many of the nurse training-schools. All realised that something must be done.

The witness handed in to the Committee his Nursing Directory, which he said had been a failure, the nurses did not take any interest in it.

The witness discussed the position of Registration in other countries. Conditions in this country were different, and if Registration Acts were passed tomorrow they would have no effect. He asserted that most of the hospitals had passed resolutions against the Registration of Nurses. There was absolute hostility to Registration.

It was always well in arranging a new organisation to follow something which had worked well, and this (in the opinion of the witness) was what had been achieved by the recognition of the examination of various corporate bodies in the case of the medical profession by the General Medical Council.

The general adoption of the three years' term of training was, he said, due to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had fought for it with great courage and persistence, and might well be credited with it.

*Tuesday, May 30th.*

The Committee met again on Tuesday, May 30th, when there were present Mr. H. J. Tennant, in the chair, Lord Morpeth, Sir John Batty Tukey, Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Mr. C. Douglas, Major Balfour, Mr. C. Hobhouse, Mr. Mount, and Dr. Hutchinson.

MR. MOTION'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. J. R. Motion, who represented the Parish Council of Glasgow, said his Council had passed a Resolution in favour of the principle of State Registration. The resolution had first been discussed fully by the Law Committee, which passed it unanimously, and the Parish Council had subsequently adopted it unanimously. There was considerable unanimity in his Council on the question of Registration, more especially, as Poor Law Nurses in Scotland were already registered by the Local Government Board, they considered that the principle should be applied to all nurses under the authority of the State.

In 1890, the witness said, the Secretary for Scotland determined that an available sum of £20,000 should be set aside to be distributed as a "medical relief grant" to poor-houses complying with certain rules. The Local Authorities, therefore, kept a Register of their nurses who had satisfactorily passed an examination after two years' training, and a Register was also kept by the Local Government Board. They were then entitled to receive half the salary and maintenance of their trained nurses from the above Fund. They would lose this grant on any nurse whose name was not on the L.G.B. Register.

The witness was of opinion that if an Act were passed, defining the three years' standard as necessary, the supply of nurses would be sufficient. The Matron of the largest hospital in Glasgow had, he knew, a list of fifty candidates waiting admission.

His experience was limited to the Glasgow Parish Council, dealing with the Stobhill Hospital and Infirmary, Springburn Hospital, the Eastern District Hospital, the Western District Hospital, and the Glasgow District Asylums at Woodilee and Gartloch. The witness handed in a paper showing the scheme in force under the Glasgow Parish Council for the training of nurses under which the three years' standard (a year in excess of the minimum laid down by the L.G.B.) is enforced, and the approval and "great satisfaction" expressed by the Local Government

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