

Government Board, or by charging the nurses a fee. This showed that an independent Committee appointed to deal with a section of the nursing world found it necessary to recommend what was now being asked for the nursing profession as a whole.

In regard to private nursing homes, it was quite possible, in the absence of a definite standard, for proprietors to say that a nurse, say of one year's training, was so sympathetic and clever that she was competent without further training. The witness said that her own doctor, who went into a home to be operated on for appendicitis, had a nurse who had only had six months' training.

The registration of Homes was a question for the local authority; it did not touch the nurses. But if homes and institutions were registered without the registration of nurses also, it was tantamount to advising the public to get their nurses through a middleman. There would still have to be an expert committee formed to define the standard for these institutions, which must be kept standing to see that the standard originally attained did not deteriorate.

In regard to the removal of training-schools from a register, there should be a system of inspection. It was more to the interest of the public that all hospitals throughout the country should have to conform to a definite standard than that there should be a few superlative institutions.

The witness considered that nurses, as a class, would be able to pay a fee of £2 2s. to £3 3s. for examination. She gave statistics showing the cost of education to other women workers—in cookery, as teachers of laundry work, teachers, milliners, at Swanley Horticultural College, as public accountants, &c.—and pointed out that a nurse, instead of having to pay for her professional education, can earn a small salary, as well as board and lodging, from the beginning of her training.

Replying to questions, the witness said that she knew for a fact that in many hospitals records in regard to the nurses were not kept.

In regard to the value of certificates, the witness said she was connected with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in Scotland. The head of the Queen's Nurses there, who would have attended before the Committee to give evidence if she had not been prevented by illness, told her that she never knew if a nurse was really efficient until she had seen her at her work.

What she desired to attain by Registration was a voluntary system in connection with the maintenance of a State Register. She would restrict the term "trained nurse" to those who were registered.

In regard to the constitution of a Central Council the Medical Association should be represented upon it, nurses—*i.e.*, those who would be governed by it—should be very fully represented. The lay public should also have representation.

The aim of a Registration Act would be to place upon a Register nurses qualified to undertake the nursing care of all classes of cases and of emergencies.

In regard to the employment in Ross Shire of two classes of nurses, Queen's nurses and cottage nurses—the witness said local committees employed whichever class they preferred. If the Local Committee preferred nurses of the Cottage type, the patients were not consulted.

SIR HENRY BURDETT'S EVIDENCE.

Sir Henry Burdett, continuing the evidence offered on May 25th, said he would like to clear up the ques-

tion of the length of training, and gave figures proving that with a very few exceptions the three years' standard of training was in force in all nurse-training schools throughout the United Kingdom. He had pointed out when he last appeared before the Committee, and he would like to emphasise the point, that it was due to the resolute, determined persistence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick that the three years' standard had been secured so far as English nurses were concerned.

In relation to nursing organisation, the witness said something must be done. Personally he advocated the registration of training-schools and agencies. If the sources of supply were controlled the pseudo-nurse would die. Agencies should only be permitted to supply efficiently-trained nurses to the public.

In regard to the training-schools, they should issue certificates, but in order to secure a definite value to these certificates, the General Nursing Council should supervise the examination of nurses throughout the country. He would like to impress upon the Committee that although the General Medical Council had power to send visitors to medical examinations, they had never yet levelled up the standard. Though the visitors had the power to report on these examinations, they had not once exercised it since the Medical Acts were enforced. The reason, he understood, was they were not quite sure what would happen if they did. This breakdown must be avoided by the Nursing Council. He would like this Council to have the power to supervise examination papers as well as examinations.

It was suggested to the witness that in this event the Board would practically become the examining body. Witness replied the visitors would discuss with the schools the questions put. What he desired was *improvement* in the present system. He did not want to commit himself to the establishment of an autoeracy, but he would like to see the control and supervision of nursing education in the hands of a Central Council. Asked what was the difference between his suggestions and that of the advocates of State Registration, he replied that his system would bring the whole thing under control at once. He wanted to get down to bedrock, and have authority over bodies training nurses. Asked if he considered the training-schools would welcome the system suggested, in which they would be interfered with more than the registration of nurses—would the London Hospital, for instance, welcome it? The witness was of opinion that neither that course nor any other taken by an outside body would be welcome to the London Hospital, but it was impossible to sit still for ever because one or two institutions held peculiar views. To maintain one's own perfection was an attitude of mind fatal to progress.

What was wanted was some authority on the basis of a trust, which would in the least objectionable way bring things into line.

Institutions desiring to be recognised as training-schools would have to accept the standard defined by law if Parliament imposed the Registration of Training-Schools, or cease to exist in that capacity. They would not get pupils.

The question was whether the general good should be considered or the idiosyncrasies of a few individuals.

He would not have too drastic and Napoleonic a system at first; he would send emissaries to examina-

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