

or whether the qualifications are imaginary, as it were. If I might I should like to complete the account of the Registration that we ourselves make. We copy the certificate into the Probationers' Register, we sum up her various qualifications, if she is appointed a staff Nurse or private Nurse she is so entered in that Register, and a record is kept there; and finally, at Miss Nightingale's suggestion, we have established a supplementary Register, and when a Nurse leaves she is given a paper which informs her that if she chooses to take the trouble to send me word what she is doing and how she gets on, her record of that will be entered for her benefit in this supplementary Register. I am thus enabled to make inquiries as to what she has done in the interval, and to help her on further or to give full information concerning her. Therefore every Nurse who once gets a Hospital certificate can get every good from her own Hospital, and the standard by which she is judged is very real all round.

6953. Do I understand you to say that, instead of being a protection to the public, you consider the British Nursing Association very much the reverse?—Very much the reverse, for the reasons which I have stated in that pamphlet. Also I may say that I am not singular in that opinion. I should like further to put in the protest signed last July by the authorities of nearly all, several at least, of the Hospitals.

6954. Do you think it is no protection to the Nurses themselves?—No, I think not; I think it is very easy for Nurses to get certificates in that way, and be passed off as better Nurses than they are. I have heard of cases of that being done. Of course it sounds plausible when you read it, and yet it is most misleading; because any Nurse trained at any Hospital ought to be able to refer to her own Hospital as an association. All Hospital bodies of workers are associations in themselves; they are obliged to be, as it were; therefore the Nurse has a natural connection with her own Hospital.

6955. You assume that every Nurse must be trained at some Hospital, and therefore you say that such Hospital is the proper place for her to refer to?—Yes; I think also it gives the public the chance of employing all sorts of Nurses, and it is hard that any should be put aside. A Nurse, for instance, trained at a quiet provincial Hospital, if a nice woman, might do for hundreds of cases in private life, and might be more suitable for them than a highly trained Nurse who only gave her mind fully to what are called interesting cases. Only that, when the public pay for a Nurse like that, I think they should know what they are doing, and deliberately choose it. I think there is room for all of them, but I think it should be easy for the public to understand what they are doing.

An instructive key to, and commentary upon, this verbose nonsense, are the facts that the London Hospital, at this time, and since, daily advertised to supply "thoroughly trained Nurses"—that when applied to for such helpers, it was in the habit of sending out its semi-trained pupils—

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work

to whom it paid very minute salaries on the ground that they were only pupils; that the accounts of this Private Nursing business are never published; and that the subscribers are kept in total ignorance as to the manner in which the large receipts are expended. Nevertheless, it is admitted, that last year,—after paying all the expenses—there remained a net profit of more than £1,700—made, be it remembered, by sweating the Nurses and deceiving the public.

The same facts throw a significant side light on the the following evidence given by Mr. FREDERICK TREVES, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital, to which Sir HORACE DAVEY referred before the Privy Council in such sarcastic terms, and which conclusively prove that this gentleman is entirely ignorant of Nursing matters.

Lord THRING.

7754. Do you think that the Registration of Nurses, that is so much talked about now, would be a good system? No, I think it would be a very bad system. It certainly would be injurious to the body of Nurses; it would be injurious to the public; and I think it would be injurious to medical men.

7755. Will you explain your reasons why it would be injurious to the body of Nurses?—For this reason: it would place all so-called trained Nurses upon a level; as a matter of fact it is impossible to speak of a great body of Nurses merely as trained Nurses. They have all been through a certain curriculum, and at the end of that time a certain percentage might be absolutely useless, and should be sent to nurse no kind of case; then a certain other percentage will be found suitable for this kind of case or that; they sink, however, to one level; the public send to an office and obtain a registered Nurse; she has one qualification, she has fulfilled the desired curriculum. If those Nurses are obtained from St. Thomas's or Guy's, or the London Hospital, or any large Hospital, the Nurse is sent out for that especial case, and is backed by the authority and reputation of the Hospital which sends her out. That secures to the public the best possible Nurse that can be obtained for that particular case.

7761. Would you now say why the system is injurious to medical men?—Might I complete the answer with reference to the injury to the public? The public endeavour, when sick, to have a thoroughly well-trained Nurse; and to take a Nurse who is simply on the Register is equivalent to a family wishing to engage a governess, simply going to an office and hearing that A, B, and C are on the register of governesses, and taking the first that comes in alphabetical order. She may turn out an admirable governess or she may not. The usual course, I take it, would be to accept no kind of register of governesses, but to secure that particular lady who has the qualifications that are

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)