

nursing capabilities and conduct of the Nurse may be described respectively as 'excellent' and 'exemplary,' which constitutes a first-class certificate; or as 'good' in both cases when the certificate ranks as second-class. *It would seem that the latter form is used when the Matron is by no means satisfied with a Nurse;* and the Committee think that words indicative of inferiority should be inserted in all certificates below the best, *if, indeed, it is desirable that any such certificate should be issued at all.*" The italics, of course, are ours. The public will share the evident surprise of the Select Committee that the largest English Hospital should solemnly certify to the public that women are "good" Nurses with whose nursing capabilities and conduct the Matron, under whom they were trained, was by no means satisfied.

[Lord SANDHURST, the Chairman of the Select Committee, proposed that the following highly significant paragraph should be added to their lordships' Report:—"Your Committee consider that the arguments in favour of the Registration of Nurses outweigh those against it, and they recommend that the Charter desired by the two Associations should be granted." When this Paragraph was put to the Committee on June 2nd, 1892, it was outvoted and left out—we are informed, on excellent authority, chiefly upon the ground that the Royal British Nurses' Association was at that moment applying for a Charter, and it was held that their lordships ought not, therefore, to express an opinion concerning a matter on which they might be called upon to adjudicate as members of the Privy Council.]

Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT, at once, announced in his paper that the Committee had condemned the scheme of Registration, and this statement being contradicted on the authority of Lord SANDHURST, Mr. BURDETT quibbled and shuffled, but naturally never apologised for, nor withdrew, the misleading assertion. We are informed, upon excellent authority, that the facts are precisely as we have given them, and that if their lordships had at all disapproved of Registration, they would assuredly have introduced a paragraph in their Report to that definite effect.

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We have now shown, with chapter and verse for every statement, the intense and interested hostility with which certain Hospitals, and the unscrupulous tactics with which certain individuals, have opposed the Association, and abused and even attempted to intimidate its members. We have shown how the Association, steadfastly pursuing its course, quietly carried on its work. Finally, at the inquiry before the Privy Council, when its opponents were compelled to distinctly state their objections, it will be observed that these were nebulous and nonsensical in the highest degree, and that the reply of the Association was complete and crushing.

There was, however, one point in this connection to which no reference was made by Sir HORACE DAVEY, and upon which we can ourselves advance some novel evidence. We were much struck by the statement made to the Privy Council by the opposing Institutions, that no General Register was necessary, inasmuch as all Hospitals maintained Registers of their own, and, moreover, kept in touch with their old pupils, so that the public could obtain from the Hospitals much better and more valuable information concerning Nurses than an outside Register could possibly afford. The fallacy, of course, underlying this argument is, that there are hundreds of women now at work as Nurses who have never been trained at all, and concerning whom, therefore, no Hospital could give any information—a fallacy conveniently ignored by those who employed the argument. But the statement appeared to us to be so entirely unfounded and misleading, that we caused inquiries to be made at once concerning certain Nurses with whose histories we were acquainted. We found that, in every instance, the Hospital authorities could give absolutely no information concerning the Nurse from the day on which she left their Institution, with the sole exception of St. Thomas's Hospital, where some attempt is clearly made to keep in touch with their Nurses after their training is completed. We take this Institution, therefore, as the only one to which the statement above made can in the slightest degree apply, and publish the two letters which we received from its officials in reply to requests for information as to the nursing capacity and personal

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