

patients. Mr. Hill brought the matter before the Board, and when Nurse Forrest was sent for and questioned,

Mr. Hill asked : One or two nights ago, was not one of the Nurses in this place left in charge of two, three or four wards ?

Nurse Forrest : Yes.

Mr. Hill : How many wards had she to look after ?

Nurse Forrest : The Male Sick, Nos. 6 and 26, and the receiving ward.

The Chairman : Where are these wards ?

Mr. Hill : The male aged is at the top of the house.

Nurse Forrest : And 6, 26, and the receiving ward at the bottom of the house.

Mr. Hill : What was the reason why this Nurse was left in charge of so many wards ? Can a Nurse in charge of all these wards conscientiously do her duty ?

Nurse Forrest : Not if she's got any bad cases.

The Chairman : Does it ever happen that several Nurses are off at the same time ?

Nurse Forrest : Two or three Nurses get off.

Mr. Hill : When Nurses are off, has the Nurse left to look after sixty patients ?

Nurse Forrest : More.

Mr. Hill : Then 100 or 120 ?

Nurse Forrest : Yes, I should say so.

Mr. Hill : Members in view of this statement should remember that the male sick ward was composed of old people from 60 to 90. It's ridiculous to think that one Nurse could do her duty with all these cases to look after.

The Board subsequently resolved to appoint an extra Nurse to take the place of any Nurse on leave or absent through illness. But they will not be doing their duty if they let the matter rest here. They should undertake a strict investigation into the whole system of the Nursing in their Infirmary, and put matters on a thoroughly good basis. Here in the Metropolis there should be no possibility of such grave neglect of the sick poor.

THE BISHOP OF STEPNEY, recently preaching, said concerning our calling :—" Nothing could be more delightful in Hospital work than to see the Hospital Nurses. Many of them had known in private life the value of their services. Directly a Trained Nurse came, somehow or other the pillows became smooth at once, and they knew that if a window was opened it was because it ought to be, if a door was closed it was because it ought to be, and if a certain kind of food was given it was because it was best, while all personal anxiety was removed as to whether one was being properly treated."

At the Bristol Royal Infirmary, a Trained Masseuse has been added to the Staff, to instruct the Nurses in massage and to attend private cases. This is an admirable departure, and a valuable addition to the training—especially for those Nurses who intend to engage in private practice. At this Infirmary, too,

Nurses are received from the outside to be trained in midwifery for a fee of ten guineas.

At the General Hospital, Birmingham, there used to be a special ward for cases of diphtheria. But a house physician and several Nurses having contracted this disease, the Committee, on the advice of the medical staff, have decided not to admit diphtheritic cases, excepting such as require an immediate operation.

ANOTHER Glasgow Nurse writes : " Concerning the question of the attitude for the time being of the Royal British Nurses' Association on State Registration, this is perfectly sure to be enforced sooner or later, and every guinea the Association accepts in support of the *voluntary* system of Registration is twenty-one shillings to the good in support of the *principle* of State Registration, which is the *raison d'être* of the Association, whether its present officials recognise the fact or no. The Glasgow school of thought on this matter has been clearly expressed in definite terms by Mr. McEwen two years ago, and Mrs. Strong's expression of opinion on the subject given before the Matrons' Council in London in 1894 is sure to bear fruit. It is not unlikely that the sound sense and reasoning power of Scottish doctors and Nurses may in the near future take the initiative in this question of State Registration ; the voluntary system under the Scottish Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association is to all intents and purposes at a standstill here."

" I was greatly amused last autumn when spending my holidays ' far from the madding crowd,' in discussing the subject of legal status for Nurses, by the opinions of two dear old doctor friends. Said one—" Na, na, lassie; be sure an' we shalna permit the Nersing ever to become a profession—it's a vocation that it is the noo.' To which number two objected—" Hoot, hoot, mon, Sandy, an' is it the Almichty ye are, wi' your professions and vocations, and leemitations ava ?" And when I questioned these two worthies as to the wisdom of my making use of the voluntary system of Registration, Dr. ' Sandy' replied, after due consideration, ' Aweel, an' it is one of me ain preenciples t' tak the wee bit bawbie, an' I canna git the siller ;' which astute remark called forth so long and dogmatic a discussion on ' preenciples' in general, and to which alone the pen of an Ian McLaren could do justice, that I must not attempt to describe it."

WE have received a most interesting letter from Miss Theodosia Terry, late of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Vice-President of the

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