

had so lost touch with them as not to know even whether they were dead or alive. It was further argued that there was no means of removing from the ranks of nurses those who subsequently disgraced their profession, or who proved, after leaving the restraints of their training-schools, that they were unfitted for the wider liberty of after life.

These arguments appealed apparently to the Queen in Council, for the Charter was granted, but the powers granted to the nursing profession under the Charter have been stultified by the action of certain members of the medical profession, and the position of the Charter, locked up in a new safe bought on purpose for its reception, is typical of its usefulness to nurses at the present time.

The necessity however for some public control of nurses has been abundantly proved again and again. The most recent instance is that of a nurse in the employ of the Whitechapel Guardians. We give the facts as reported in the daily press, as we have applied for, but have been unable to obtain, any information from the clerk to the Whitechapel Guardians. It would appear that the nurse entered the service of the Guardians on the merits of testimonials which proved to be forged, and that she discharged herself as soon as she found out that the nature of her references had been discovered. The Guardians therefore were unable to take any action with regard to her conduct, and she will probably obtain a fresh post on the strength of the forged testimonials, which deceived the authorities of the Whitechapel Infirmary. She will therefore continue to delude the public, and to bring discredit on the nursing profession. It is obvious that the public should have some protection against the entrance of a woman of this description into public institutions and into their houses as a trained nurse. State organization and control can alone prevent such abuses.

LEGISLATION FOR 'MASSAGE.

THE St. James's Vestry has approached the Home Secretary with a view to obtaining his support with regard to the better regulation of West End massage establishments.

The vestry proposed that it should be illegal for any person except a medical practitioner to apply massage or similar treatment to any person of the opposite sex; that all massage establishments should be registered and inspected; that both men and women performing

massage should be required to pass an examination, and possess certificates of efficiency; and that all persons performing massage without holding the necessary certificates should be fined £100, or be imprisoned for six months; and that the owner or lessee of property where massage was illegally performed, if aware of it, should be fined £20, or be imprisoned for three months.

These suggestions are a practical effort to deal with a question which is a burning one. The massage abuse has remained so long untouched, that it has attained gigantic dimensions. We welcome, therefore, the efforts of the St. James' Vestry to deal with this matter.

It is to be deplored that the Home Secretary after consultation with the General Medical Council, "regrets that he does not see his way to propose legislation in the direction suggested; but, it is certain, that with or without the help of the General Medical Council, public opinion will soon demand that some action shall be taken to regulate "massage" houses.

PRINCE OF WALES' HOSPITAL FUND.

A MEETING of the General Council of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund for London, was held at Marlborough House on Tuesday last, the Prince of Wales being in the chair. There were present the Chief Rabbi, Lord Rowton, Mr. Hugh Colin Smith, Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., and other friends of the Fund.

The report of the Executive Committee announced that the receipts for the current year were £38,494, which, with the balance for 1897 gave a total of £203,490. The Executive Committee have decided to distribute this year £32,500. It was announced that £12,050 in special donations, as distinguished from annual grants, would be given. By this means 57 beds now unoccupied, will come into use next year, making a total of 242 beds permanently available to the public without payment.

The work done by the visiting committee, of which Sir Trevor Lawrence is Chairman, was also reported upon.

The report having been adopted, the Prince of Wales expressed his thanks to those gentlemen who had served on the Visiting Committee, as well as on the Distribution and Convalescent Hospital Committees, and the meeting terminated after a unanimous vote of thanks to His Royal Highness for presiding.

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