

apparently were expected to take their seats six months after the inauguration of the Board, when all the regulations governing their profession had been decided upon; she therefore proposed that Sub-section (d) should be deleted, and that the following addition should be inserted in Clause 5.

"These rules shall not be framed and adopted until the Central Board is fully constituted."

This was seconded by Miss Georgina Scott, and supported by several nurse-members of the Association, as well as by Dr. Bezly Thorne, who said that it was not in accordance with good public business to enact penalties for those who have no voice in framing them.

The addition was put to the meeting and carried.

With regard to the clause governing the appeal from the decision of the Central Board of any woman thinking herself aggrieved by the removal of her name from the Register, Miss A. J. Beatty said that it should be distinctly provided that the accused person should receive a statement in writing of the misconduct imputed to her, and that she should have an opportunity of replying either in writing, or personally, to the Central Board concerning the accusations made against her. The time allowed for an appeal to the High Court of Justice should be extended to six months.

We sympathise with Miss Beatty in her objection to the talking and tittering which were audible as soon as she began to discuss this clause. The members present evidently did not at first appreciate the gravity of the amendment she suggested, embodying the precautions advocated by her, and its importance to themselves; but eventually, we are glad to say, it was carried.

Next week we shall refer to the discussion relating to the Registration of Nursing Homes, and other matters.

Should the Nurses' Home be Separated from the Hospital?

Since our last issue we have had an opportunity of speaking with certain members of the medical staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on this question, and we are bound to confess we do not think they at all realise the disastrous results of their suggestion to build the new Nurses' Home without the gates.

One gentleman assured us that it was not contemplated to erect the Home at any distance—quite close, in fact—so that it could be connected with the hospital by an underground passage; this would mitigate the evil, but where can a convenient space be found "quite close" to the present site? Another member of the staff replied that the removal of the Home was "the lesser of two evils"—the other evil, we imagine, being the removal of the non-residential medical school, which, in our opinion, might just as well be elsewhere.

A third opined that "the nurses, poor dears! would come to no harm," and our point of view—that to turn women out at 6.30 a.m. to trudge to the hospital in all weathers was *inhuman* as well as unpractical—appeared a matter of no importance.

Indeed, it is reported of one medical man that he has expressed the opinion that "the hospital has plenty of land in St. Luke's (three-quarters of a mile away) on which to build a Nurses' Home, and the walk will do them good. They may as well walk to and fro as spend time staring in shop windows"!

It is good to know, however, that there is a growing feeling amongst the managers of the hospital, who are responsible for the health of the nursing staff, that the Nurses' Home must be close to the hospital. We think every Governor ought to have an opportunity of considering this important matter from the nurses' as well as the medical point of view.

Miss Pinchard, Lady Superintendent of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, writes:—"I agree with you absolutely, and think it would be the height of bad management to rebuild such an institution as St. Bartholomew's with so obvious a mistake. The utter discomfort of such arrangements I have frequently heard condemned by nurses so housed."

Miss Richmond, Matron of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, writes:—"For the last year, owing to great pressure on our hospital, we have had three of our nurses living a short way from the hospital. They do not like it; it is extremely inconvenient in many ways, and it is certainly more tiring. I am sorry to see that St. Bart's is thinking of building a Nurses' Home away from the hospital. I am sure it is a mistake, and I agree with all the objections you raise in your article on the subject."

Miss Smadley, the Matron of St. George's Hospital, W., has practical experience of this arrangement, as its Nurses' Home is a fifteen minutes' walk from the hospital; we believe she is convinced that the separation of the hospital and Nurses' Home is detrimental to the best interests of the nursing school, and, we may therefore conclude, to the hospital.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—It has never been my lot to work, either as nurse, Sister, or Matron, at a hospital where a "boarding-out" system was in vogue for the nursing staff. As a temporary arrangement it may sometimes be necessary, but for a permanency it appears, from every point of view, most undesirable.

Health, comfort, discipline, all would suffer if the Nurses' Home were outside the hospital grounds at such a distance as to entail even a ten minutes' walk. Less time than that in a choking fog, a piercingly cold east wind, a downpour of rain, or some of London's own particular mud, would be quite sufficient

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