

At the termination of their training all probationers approved by their schools should be examined by a Central Board, and, if they satisfy the examiners, their names should be placed by the State on a Register of Trained Nurses. The public would thus be assured that if some nurses even then fall short of the ideal, every effort has been made to ensure that at least they are reputable women who know their work, and that the utmost care has been taken to make them efficient before they are certified as fit to undertake the most responsible duties which devolve upon trained nurses.

### Annotations.

#### LONDON HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The attention of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London having for some time past been called to the financial relations of certain of the London hospitals to their medical schools, the question has been referred to a committee which will consist of Lord Welby, Sir Edward Fry, and the Bishop of Stepney.

The terms of the reference are as follows:—

To consider and report:—

1. Whether any, and if any how much, money given or subscribed for the relief of the sick poor to the twelve London Hospitals having medical schools, is contributed, directly or indirectly, by those hospitals, or any of them, for the maintenance of medical education.

2. Whether any direct or indirect return for such contributions (if any) is received by the hospitals from their medical schools, and, if so, whether such return is equivalent to the amount of the contributions.

3. Whether, in the event of the Committee finding that any hospital contributes to its medical school a sum in excess of the return it receives from the medical school, there are any special considerations advanced in justification of such expenditure, or any general considerations which would apply to all hospitals having medical schools.

It is an instruction to the Committee to deal with the subject on the basis of the existing arrangements, and to accept from the hospitals as existing arrangements any such as they may advise the Committee will be in operation on January 1, 1905.

#### THE DIVERSION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES OF CHARITABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A serious question which might well be included in the above inquiry, is the action of the Central Hospital Council for London in their

organised opposition to the State Registration of Trained Nurses, because the administration of hospital funds subscribed for the relief of the sick poor is involved in the question.

The case stands briefly thus. Trained nurses who know the danger to the sick public of nurses with an inefficient professional education have formed and financed a Society, which last session introduced a Bill into Parliament with the object of establishing a minimum standard of nursing education, and of providing for the registration of all who attain it.

The Central Hospital Council for London, consisting originally of representatives of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools attached—to which have recently been added the West London Hospital and seven special hospitals—immediately passed a resolution:—

“That this Council is opposed to any State Registration of Nurses, and that steps be taken on behalf of the Council to oppose any Bill in Parliament having such Registration for its object.”

It is, of course, open to any society to take what steps seem good to it in relation to this question, but it is a matter of some concern to nurses, whose purses are somewhat slender, and also to the public, to know who is financing the opposition.

Turning to the constitution of the Central Hospital Council we find under the heading “Expenses” the following provision:—“The constituent hospitals shall be invited to contribute equally to the annual expenses,” so the position in regard to the Registration campaign is this: The nurses who are fighting this public battle are paying their own expenses, while the Central Hospital Council for London, which is organising the opposition—and which is composed of the employers of nurses, mostly rich and influential men—has taken power to use funds subscribed by the charitable public for the care of the sick, to finance a political campaign against a body of women who are striving to obtain the efficient regulation of their profession, and the protection of the sick from inefficient nurses.

We presume that Sir Savile Crossley, Hon. Secretary of King Edward VII.'s Hospital Fund for London, who has given his support to the Central Hospital Council for London by signing its anti-Registration manifesto, understands how the Fund is financed. We call upon him, therefore, to explain his position, not only to the subscribers to the King's Fund, but to those to every hospital whose funds are liable to be unjustifiably diverted for this purpose.

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