

able for the work, but she had afterwards found them acting as private nurses, and even stating that they had been trained under her. That was a very common experience, and it was very unfair to the public that it should be possible. In her own surgical home, she only employed paid and fully-trained nurses, but also took in two nurses from Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital to give them experience in private nursing. But it was a fact that untrained persons were employed as nurses in some Nursing Homes. With regard to the personal qualities of a nurse, Miss Huxley emphasised the fact that a State examination would be a great protection to the public, because every nurse would have to give evidence of her knowledge, and unless she was a thoroughly reputable woman her hospital would surely not vouch for her as such. With regard to Nursing Homes, scandals had undoubtedly arisen, but Miss Huxley had only obtained her knowledge of such facts by confidential statements which she could not repeat. Finally, she thought that it would be quite feasible to have examinations in two standards—one for a minimum qualification, and one for nurses who desired to take up higher appointments, such as Matronships. She handed in a copy of the rules and regulations of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses, which she had taken some part in starting some years ago. Some Dublin hospitals, which have no lectures, send their nurses to this central school, where they receive lectures on theoretical subjects, and are examined in them, and this had proved to be very useful.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK was then called in, and gave some estimates as to the probable receipts and expenditure of a General Nursing Council, and the Committee adjourned.

On Thursday, July 14th, the Committee held their third meeting.

Mr. BURT stated that he desired to give evidence on behalf of the Central Hospital Council for London, of which he was Chairman. On January 26th that body decided to oppose the Bills for the Registration of Nurses, and on February 16th a Committee of the Council was appointed to take such measures as might be necessary in that direction. Mr. Sydney Holland was Chairman of that Committee, and it had prepared a paper which had been circulated through the hospitals, and very widely signed by hospital managers, medical men, and nurses and persons interested in the subject. He explained what the constitution of the Central Hospital Council was, and gave the numbers of signatures to the paper in question.

The Hon. SYDNEY HOLLAND was then called, and stated that he was Chairman of the London Hospital, of the Poplar Hospital, and of Tilbury Hospital; a member of Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Council, and of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. He had been working at nursing matters for the last thirteen years. He desired to point out the numbers of people who were opposing Registration, and said it would be unreasonable to suppose that they would do so if they thought that it would improve nursing. He stated that this question had been twice considered before, and each time defeated; that the Committee of the House of Lords which inquired into the Metropolitan Hospitals in 1892 voted against the Registration of Nurses. Lord Sandhurst, the Chairman, proposed a resolution in favour of Registration,

and by six votes to two it was defeated. Then the Royal British Nurses' Association asked for a Royal Charter and State Registration of Nurses, and the Privy Council refused it. (As our readers are doubtless aware, the first statement is most misleading, and the second is entirely untrue.) Mr. Holland urged that it was important to ask who was in favour of Registration, and who was against it. Well, the Matron of every hospital, except St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, and Charing Cross, was against it, and a number of hospitals and other important bodies had passed resolutions against it. The people who were in favour of it were the Matrons' Council, and he desired to warn the Committee against the Matrons' Council. It had a very important name, and it might delude them into believing that it was an important body; but it consisted of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Isla Stewart, of St. Bartholomew's, and Miss Huxley, and he did not know who else of any importance. In reply to the Chairman, he admitted that there was no other Matrons' Council, and that the members had a perfect right to call themselves the Matrons' Council if they chose. He proceeded to argue that Registration would be no use in safeguarding the public against untrained nurses. It would make nurses think themselves quite equal to doctors by making them feel very scientific, and would thus put them quite out of their proper place. With reference to Dr. Fenwick's statement that Registration would affect the richer classes, he said that nurses were only engaged now by doctors, and that inquiry concerning these nurses at the hospitals where they were trained was the only safeguard the public required and all they could have. He considered that Registration would tend to stop such inquiries, and would lull the public into a false sense of security. They would say the nurse's name was on the State Register and so she must be all right, and they would not inquire any further. He admitted that there were scandals in the nursing world, but hurried from this subject to argue that a nurse, once her name was on the Register, might become most incompetent and out of date, but still her name would continue on the list, and the Register, in fact, would become a continuing guarantee of her efficiency. He pointed out that nursing has changed tremendously in the last few years, and, therefore, all nurses tend to become rusty after they have left their hospital. He desired to lay great emphasis on the "suitability" of nurses for any particular case. That point could not be exaggerated, he said, and such suitability for any particular case could never be given by Registration. He considered that the value of a nurse depended chiefly on her personal character, and that examinations were most dangerous tests. At the London Hospital they knew that some of their nurses who had passed examinations would not be likely to turn out satisfactory nurses, but he admitted that they certificated them to the public nevertheless. He stated that lots of nurses would not be eligible for registration, but it would be a professional slur upon them if they could not be registered. For example, he had recently chosen a most excellent nurse, a woman of the highest qualities, for work in his own parish of Royston. She was trained nine years ago, but for only eighteen months (Mr. Holland did not explain how it was this excellent woman had not become "rusty"). He further considered that examinations would simply cause cramming for the purpose of passing examinations. He explained the

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