

I found it necessary to open and drain one hip and both ankles. This result was only rendered possible by the vigilance of the nursing staff, who called my attention to each joint at the very outset of the trouble. Similarly, abscesses may form under or between the muscles in other parts of the body, which, if undetected, may attain to a large size or implicate important organs.

Perhaps one may best sum up by pointing out that in scarlet fever, as, indeed, in most infectious diseases, prevention, by observation and by the practice of constant surgical cleanliness of the patient and the ward, is better than cure by knife or drug, if only for the reason that the latter is often impossible, and the former seems to get more and more possible every day.

The Select Committee on Nursing.

On Tuesday, July 19th, the first witness called was Dr. NORMAN MOORE, who said that he was a physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He stated that of recent years the general education of nurses had enormously improved, and the social standing of the majority of nurses had also risen considerably. Indeed, it was impossible for an entirely uneducated woman to obtain admission as a probationer at some hospitals. At St. Bartholomew's, for example, they practically excluded illiterate people altogether by their preliminary examination. He considered that there was no danger whatever to the public in the present want of uniformity of nursing education—which he admitted to exist; and he admitted that there is a wide diversity at present in the nursing education given by different hospitals. He thought it was an advantage that there should be a great diversity, because he considered that the door into nursing should be made as wide as possible. He would not, therefore, make the literary requirements for would-be probationers too stringent. He was perfectly satisfied with the nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and he did not consider a Bartholomew's nurse could be trained in six months; though he knew that some people thought that six months' training was sufficient in some cases; and he thought that women after six months' training might perhaps make excellent cottage nurses. He briefly described the training at St. Bartholomew's, and said that every probationer was compelled to pass two examinations before she could be certificated. He desired to lay great stress on the fact that the doctor is always responsible for his nurses, and he believed every doctor always took the most scrupulous care that the nurses he obtained for his patients were thoroughly competent. He would go so far as to say that if he himself allowed an incompetent nurse to look after his patient, and she killed his patient, he would consider that he had killed his patient. He stated that St. Bartholomew's never sends out a private nurse to the public whom the hospital has not certificated. He admitted that he was aware that some hospitals send out uncertificated nurses to the public, but still he did not think the doctors or the public required any protection. He considered that the great danger of Registration was that it would lead to nurses undertaking the work of

medical men. He was a member of the General Medical Council, and considered that that body was not at all well fitted to cope with the difficulties of a judicial character which came before it, and that it would be very difficult indeed for a Nursing Council to deal with women against whom complaints might be made. He admitted that there were no means at present of stopping untrustworthy nurses from following their calling, but he believed that it very rarely happened that such nurses were employed (!). He considered that the Registration of Nurses would tend to prevent improvements in nursing education, but he did not explain how it could have this effect. He considered that examinations by hospitals would be much better than one by a central nursing authority. He considered that it would be extremely expensive to conduct such examinations of nurses, and he did not think that nurses could afford to meet such an expense. He believed that nurses tended to specialise only in surgical nursing, but he knew nothing about surgery himself, and could not therefore give particulars. He did not know if Registration of Nurses was in force in any other country. He could not say whether nurses are examined at other hospitals; he only knew what was done at St. Bartholomew's. He considered that moral qualities would certainly be cultivated by the nurse's training. In reply to questions from the Committee, he said that doctors had a uniform minimum training of five years, and that in all parts of the United Kingdom that was a uniform standard; but insisted that there was no uniformity in the manner in which they were educated, although they were all compelled to study and be examined in certain specified subjects. He admitted that it was important that a nurse should be thoroughly trained for her work, especially when the doctor lived at a considerable distance and she had to carry out his directions. He could not say how a doctor who telegraphed, for example, from the Riviera for a nurse was to know exactly what her character and capabilities were. He admitted that it would reduce the expense of nurses' examinations if they were held in local centres all over the country, and that it would certainly be possible to hold such examinations. With regard to Nursing Homes, his experience was that they were generally expensive and generally efficient; he had heard of cases of neglect occurring in such homes, but he had no personal experience or knowledge of any scandal in connection with a Nursing Home. He admitted that there was no control at all over Nursing Homes at present, but he thought that as soon as a home was found to be inefficient, doctors would cease to send their patients there and the home would be shut up.

Mr. SYDNEY HOLLAND was then recalled, and said he desired to mention that he had found it necessary to correct rather extensively the proof of his evidence which had been sent to him, because he thought he had not sufficiently explained himself on the last occasion, and there were certain points on which he had misunderstood the questions of the Committee. He had not kept a list of his corrections, and therefore he could not state to the Committee what he had altered. He desired to correct the statement he had made on the last occasion that he was satisfied with the present conditions of nursing. He was not satisfied with them or with the fact that improperly-trained nurses are now sent out to the public. He admitted that it

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