

was possible that untrustworthy nurses might be going about even with the London Hospital certificate, and it could not be prevented. He admitted that a register would, of course, exclude all persons who were criminals and lunatics, but it would permit incompetent nurses to go on working. He stated that Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service now admits nurses who have had three years' "training and service." He got this alteration passed himself, and it would do away with the injustice to Dublin nurses to which Miss Huxley had called attention. The Military Nursing Service had a limited number of hospitals from which they would accept nurses for the Army. He asserted that he did not say on the last occasion that they sent out from the London Hospital probationers who had not been two years in the hospital as private nurses. He meant that they did so, some years ago, but they did not do so now. In reply to questions from the Committee, he repeated that probationers were not sent out now from the London Hospital as private nurses. He asserted that every breath in his body would be devoted to making the hospital education of nurses better and better, and that he hoped all hospitals might in future keep registers of their own and make inquiry into the work of their nurses after they left their service. He thought there were only about ten hospitals which sent out private nurses; the London Hospital, which was the largest, having about 160 private nurses on its staff, and it supplied about 1,000 patients a year. He admitted that the public are therefore dependent to a large extent on other institutions outside the hospitals, and he admitted that the public is therefore more or less at the mercy of these places with regard to the private nurses they send out to the sick. He admitted that there are such things as emergencies when a nurse may be wanted instantly, perhaps away on the Yorkshire moors or out of England altogether; and that it would be difficult or impossible for anyone to make any inquiries about such nurses before they were sent out. He admitted that "lots of nurses" are incompetent at present; for example, he had a card sent to him the previous day of a woman who did "charing (spelt wrong), scrubbing, and nursing." In reply to other questions he repeated a good deal of the evidence he had given at the previous meeting of the Committee, and said he was perfectly certain the London Hospital nurses could not afford to pay £5 for examination and registration. He admitted that it would be an advantage to strike off the names of convicts from the Register, but said that this would not prevent them working as nurses. He stated that for the private nurses of the London Hospital the usual fees were charged to the public, and that of course they only went to well-to-do people.

On Thursday, July 21st, the first witness was

Mr. WALSH, who said he had had seventeen years' experience in male nursing, and was the managing director of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation, which had branches in London, Manchester, and Edinburgh.

He had not been himself in Edinburgh. He stated that there is a very large and increasing demand for male nurses; that there is no uniform system of training for them in any part of the kingdom; that most male nurses and male attendants come from the large asylums, and a few from the National Hospital, Queen Square, but the number from the latter is

limited; that nothing in the nature of a test or examination is given before they are admitted for training; that the work for which male nurses are employed is not at all limited as to cases—they take surgical, medical, and any other cases. He mentioned that during recent years an increasing number of male nurses had been examined by the Medico-Psychological Association, but most nurses were not examined by that Association, and so are not tested at all. The demand which is now made for medically-trained male nurses is very great, but there is little or no means of training them. Moreover, in most hospitals there is a great prejudice against male nurses, and this is one of the great difficulties they had to contend with.

He considered that such a Central Board as that proposed in the Bill before Parliament would be advantageous. He pointed out that there are many cases which male nurses have to attend which are unsuitable for female nurses, and he felt sure that a State Examination and Registration would improve the class of male nurses.

He thought Parliament should form a central authority and give it power to register nurses, and also give them power to remove any name of a person who was convicted of criminal offences. He stated that at the present time men can be discharged from one institution for serious offences and can immediately enter another. Most of the institutions do not make inquiries before admitting men on their staff. There are a few institutions which never take in any male nurses without making such inquiries.

He did not agree with the suggestion that a certificate would only state upon its face that the holder was a competent person at a particular time, whereas in a few years the person might become incompetent, because if nurses continued to follow their calling they would not become incompetent, although they might become unsuitable, and he considered that the central authority ought to be able to remove such persons from the Register.

The great safeguard to the public would, of course, be that it would be very difficult under the Register for a nurse, after he has been dismissed from one, to obtain service under another institution.

He knew many persons at the present time who were acting as nurses but who are quite untrustworthy. He considered that examinations properly conducted and suitable for nurses would be a great advantage, provided they did not attempt to give a higher education in medicine or other things to nurses. He did not say they would take advantage of the knowledge, but they might consider themselves to know as much as the doctors.

He had not considered the matter of financial difficulties.

He felt sure that the male nurses who have come under his notice would not hesitate to pay a fee of three or four guineas for examination.

His great desire was that male nurses should have the same facilities of education as female nurses. It is possible in Germany and Italy. It would need certain alterations, but not to a great extent, because there are certain cases which a female nurse should not be allowed to nurse.

He did not think that any nurse should be struck off the Register on the complaint of a doctor without a careful inquiry. He believed that some Nursing Homes took in persons without any inquiry. The class of men he preferred to train as nurses are those

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