

who have been footmen or valets. He did not take them over thirty-five years of age. They are mostly persons of little or no education.

He believed there was Registration of Nurses in America, but knew little or nothing about it. If Registration came into force, he thought the majority of the unqualified persons who are practising as nurses would find work at a cheaper rate than the qualified.

He would like it to be conditional that all nurses entering for examination should be uniformly trained and of good character. It was not the protection of nurses only, but the protection of the public that was necessary. For example, he knew a man who had only recently come out of prison after being there eighteen months, and he was now engaged as a nurse.

In Mr. Walshe's institution they charge £2 4s. 6d. for cases without inquiry, that is, if a nurse is ordered for a mental case by telephone without any particulars being given. People of very moderate incomes are charged about half-a-guinea less. They generally nurse well-to-do patients. If Registration was enforced, the registered nurses would not obtain higher fees.

The number of male nurses is increasing very much, and the number would not be checked if there was a charge of £5 for registration. He thought that there should be a practical examination for male nurses, and they should not be expected to have a large knowledge of medicine and other things which do not concern them, because, though many would not presume on the little knowledge attained, in the case of an ignorant person there is always danger that he would do so.

The reason he was in favour of Registration was that he thought it would give a very much more up-to-date guarantee than a hospital certificate; and it would be a check on the nurse from day to day and week to week to know that he was under the control of a Central Council, which there is not on the hospital certificate. If a nurse is discharged from one institution now, he may either practise as a private nurse or he may join another institution. He may succeed in entering another—as a matter of fact, this is done; but if he was dismissed for serious offences and the particulars could be given to a central authority, they would have power to remove his name from the Register and he could not get into another institution. If a man nursed a case perfectly well and then quarrelled with the patient, they would not be able to remove his name. No medical man would recommend a nurse to be removed simply because he quarrelled with his patient.

Mr. Walshe considered that if a nurse disappeared for a certain number of years he ought to be struck off the Register.

Male nurses are employed mainly for lunacy and delirium tremens cases. Asylum attendants are included in the category of male nurses.

He considered general training necessary for asylum nurses as well as training in lunacy. He thought there ought to be a special examination for lunacy nursing after the general examination, and that this should confer a special certificate.

All the nurses he employed must either have a certificate or have served a sufficient time to qualify for one; and that certificate has frequently been asked for.

The next witness was Miss ANNIE J. HOBBS,

who said that she had been trained in the West London Hospital for four years three months, had done private nursing four months, been Charge Nurse at the Home for Gentlewomen one year six months, Night Superintendent at the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, six months, Assistant Superintendent of Nurses at the Nurses' Co-operation two years ten months, Secretary of the Auxiliary Nurses' Society one year nine months, and Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association one year three months.

She considered that the only method of obtaining general uniformity would be by State Registration under a central nursing body, which would have power to remove any nurse who was proved to be in any way criminal or unfit for her work, but she did not think a name should be removed simply because the nurse did not suit any individual patient or individual doctor. In cases of serious complaint she considered a doctor would communicate with the Registration authority.

She would suggest that the Council should have a staff sufficient to ascertain a nurse's qualifications. Nurses should apply to them for registration on payment of a fee, and should have to present a testimonial of technical fitness from some person in authority. She thought that the Register should be revised annually. If each nurse paid a fee of 2s. 6d. each year it would be sufficient to pay the expenses of such revision. She thought that the initial fee should be three guineas at the outside, and that that would not in the least diminish the number of nurses applying for registration.

She had heard of nurses going out to nurse the public who have only had about eighteen months' experience, but could not speak to the fact personally. She knew that there were many Nursing Homes which send out only partially-trained women, and who charge full fees for their services. She knew there are incompetent people engaged in nursing, and that is a distinct danger to the art; Registration would diminish that danger to a great extent, and would place the public in a position to choose properly-trained nurses. Of course there are some people who will not choose properly-trained nurses, whatever is done.

Some excellent women go out to nurse the sick poor who are not trained nurses in any sense of the term, nor have they the knowledge requisite to perform the duties they have to discharge. She did not think Registration would touch that class at all. She would leave nurses who are only partially trained as they are.

With reference to Mr. Burt's statement that 484 nurses now engaged in the London hospitals signed the protest against Registration, she thought that possibly it would have been of more importance if signatures had come from people not at present engaged in the hospitals, because when a nurse is acting in a hospital she must act in conformity with the opinions of her authorities. She does not commence to think about Registration until she has ceased her connection with hospitals. She thought that some of the Matrons had also signed the protest for the same reason.

Registration would protect the public and improve the status of nurses. She would like to remark that the opponents of Registration seem to lay much stress on good character; that, undoubtedly, is a very necessary thing, but if that is the only requisite quality of a nurse there seems to be no reason why she should be trained at all and go through all those years of training. The great object of Registration is that the nurse shall get a proper training, and that the fact of

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