

twenty years' service, retires on a full pay pension of £55 a year."

Mr. Holland did not inform the Committee whether all the probationers passed through the preliminary home, or whether a proportion of them were received straight into the hospital, and were known amongst the nurses as "straight-inners"; whether they are paid during the time of trial, before being entered on the books as probationers, or how the pension of the private nurses is secured to them as the regulations state that "pensions are only to be paid *during the pleasure of the Committee.*"

Questioned further as to whether the certificate as a trained nurse was given to the nurses at the London, after four years or after two, Mr. Holland replied: "They get a certificate as a trained nurse after two years, and the full certificate is given after four years. We consider at the London Hospital we can train a nurse perfectly in two years. Florence Nightingale said she could do it in twelve months if she paid attention to one, and we consider that, with the opportunities we have and with the preliminary training, we can train a nurse in two years. 'The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and when his Majesty was ill we had the honour of nursing him.' If we can train a nurse sufficiently well to nurse him we can do it to nurse anybody else. Today we have 200 nurses nursing all over England."

Mr. Holland did not remind the Committee that in the days when Florence Nightingale was training nurses just about half a century ago, the usual period of training—such as it was—was much less than a year, and that nursing was in its infancy; nor did he inform the Committee whether the nurse selected by the authorities of the London Hospital to nurse his Majesty was one who had not received her "full certificate." If she had had the full period of four years, two years of which had been spent gaining further experience either in hospital or at the expense of private patients, his argument falls to the ground. If this was not the case, most people will agree with us that only a nurse who was fully certificated should have been sent to nurse the King.

#### THE IDEAL GUARDIAN.

Questioned by Dr. Downes as to "the lurid picture" he drew of the condition of the man who seeks medical relief from the Poor Law, and as to whether he really wished the Committee to take it as a fair picture of what occurs, Mr. Holland replied that he did. He was speaking, as a guardian, of his actual knowledge and experience of the work of the

relieving officer. Asked what action as a guardian he took when he found the poor people being treated like that, he replied:—

"Acquiesced in it entirely, and thought it was a very good thing. I thought that everybody who came before us was a swindler, and must be most carefully inquired into, and asked whether he had not drunk too much, and all the rest of it. That is the ideal guardian, a man who prevents imposition. There is no sympathy shown to poor people in the Poor Law."

Considering that Mr. Holland had previously told the Committee that in his opinion only wage earners were legitimate hospital patients, that all the "homeless, friendless, and workless should be referred to the relieving officer, his views as an ideal guardian of the way these poor people should be treated are somewhat remarkable. The inference is that his "love and sympathy" are restricted to wage earners.

#### THE HON. SERVICES OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL STAFF.

The medical staff of the London Hospital, who do not dive into Blue Books, may be interested to learn the Chairman's opinion as to their reasons for giving their voluntary services. "The only reason that these men attend to our hospitals for nothing is because they get opportunities of showing their skill to a lot of students, and when the students get out into the world, when they want the same thing done and cannot do it themselves, they send for the man whom they saw do it, and that is why we get these invaluable services from the great men."

### Morality and Health.

The Secretary of the Eugenics Education Society, Mrs. Gotto, is deeply interested in the Resolutions and work of the National Committees of Nurses on Morality and Health, holding that the extirpation of preventable constitutional blight in the form of infectious disease is one of the fundamental requirements of Practical Eugenics, which aims to study "agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations either physically or morally." She hopes for a co-ordination between the Nurses' Committee and her own Society, interchange of information, and information on work done, literature published, and lines undertaken toward popular education. The aims of the Eugenics Education Society are most inspiring and uplifting, and give the element of hope and promise so necessary to fortify those who enter the appalling combat with vice-caused diseases.

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