

that discipline and hospital etiquette alone prevent them from subscribing to this Memorial.

10. We are emboldened by the harmonious relations which have always existed between the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and their Nursing Staff to address this Memorial to the Treasurer and Almoners, feeling sure that due consideration will be given to the views which we have advanced.

We are,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servants,

The result of the election proved that no recognition whatever was to be given to the meritorious work of hundreds of nurses who during the past thirty years have built up the first class reputation of the School, in spite of every domestic discomfort, which without complaint they have endured, in the dangerous and insanitary tenements in which they are housed.

QUI S'EXCUSE S'ACCUSE.

The excuse for this ruthless treatment is that "the best candidate was appointed"!

Having eliminated all "Bart's" women who are Matrons of hospitals with medical schools attached by imposing the age limit of 40, only one candidate of the first rank was recommended to the Election Committee—Miss Davies, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Matron of No. 3 Hospital, Territorial Force of the City and County of London, and Certified Midwife. This lady was trained for three years, and certificated at King's College Hospital, and has held the positions of Sister and Assistant Matron at University College Hospital, Matron of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, where she proved herself so able an administrator that by request she assumed the Matronship of St. Mary's Hospital, a position she has held for four years with the greatest distinction. To compare this record of professional achievement with that of the elected candidate is unnecessary."

We have only to add that from far and wide, except by the inspired press, the treatment of "Bart's" nurses is unsparingly condemned.

A Public Meeting.

A Public Meeting will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Monday, June 6th, at 7.30 p.m.

"To consider the position of the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to take such action as may be desirable."

The chair will be taken by Miss Maud Banfield, cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, late Superintendent, Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

It should be clearly understood that the

meeting is convened by the nurses certificated from St. Bartholomew's who hold positions independent of the Governors. They realise that the prestige of their certificate is seriously depreciated, and their professional status thereby injured. Those who sympathise with the object of the meeting will be welcome.

Queen's Jubilee Conference.

A Conference convened by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute between representatives of the affiliated Nursing Associations in England and Wales was held on May 27th at Caxton Hall, S.W. Mr. R. O'Brien Furlong presided in the unavoidable absence of Viscount Goschen. The first paper presented was by Dr. A. Shadwell on Poor Law Reform, which was read by Mr. D. F. Pennant. There were, said Dr. Shadwell, in relation to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws three principal points of view—that of the supporters of the Majority Report, which was drastic in its suggestions, proposing a minor revolution; that of the supporters of the Minority Report, which was still more drastic, its suggestions proposing a complete revolution; and that of the Independent Reformers. Both the Majority and Minority Reports advocated the abolition of Boards of Guardians, but differed with regard to the constitution and functions of the authority proposed to replace them. The Majority advocated the formation of a Public Assistance Authority composed jointly of the County or County Borough Council and members of voluntary bodies on a statutory footing. The Minority aimed at preventing rather than relieving destitution, the work to be undertaken by Committees of the County and County Borough Councils. If the Minority Report were adopted, Dr. Shadwell considered that Nursing Associations might as well put up the shutters at once. The authors probably knew nothing, and cared less, about such Associations, and one of the leading principles of the scheme was to supersede voluntary agencies. District Nursing was probably one of the greatest agencies for the prevention of destitution, because it gave help at the right time, of the right sort, and in the right place, but when public authorities with a bottomless purse undertook the same work as voluntary agencies, the latter died of inanition, because the public would not pay for both. If he were a betting man, he would put his money on the Independent Party, which proposed reform rather than revolution. In a recent debate in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, and the Pre-

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