

alluded to Mrs. Shuter as "that woman." He read a petition from the nursing staff of the hospital, addressed in most respectful terms to the Treasurer, Almoners, and Governors, and sent to them by registered letter, contradicting the rumour that they were contented with the appointment\*—a document which was signed by 226 Sisters and nurses out of a possible 250. With the remark that "we seem to have been living on rumours lately, and this is the thinnest of the lot," Lord Sandhurst threw it contemptuously on the table. He concluded by saying: "We are not going to stand this; if the Resolution is carried, we go," intimating that the Resolution would be regarded by him as a vote of censure, on which he would resign the Treasurership of the hospital.

On Lord Sandhurst's making a personal matter of the Resolution, Dr. Dobson decided to withdraw it, but it must not be understood that he withdrew the opinions therein expressed, which we are sure he would not desire to do either on his own behalf or on that of the nurses for whom he spoke.

Personally, we consider the only fighting motto to be "never withdraw, never resign," but the certificated nurses of St. Bartholomew's have every reason to be grateful to Dr. Dobson and Mr. Donaldson for proposing and seconding the Resolution, and the other gentlemen mentioned for supporting their views—a thankless task, considering the attitude of resentment assumed by Lord Sandhurst against any expression of opinion whatever upon the part of some 500 past or present nurses of the hospital in regard to their professional standards. Apparently he expects them to remain silent, however great a slur is cast on their professional efficiency, however gross the injustice to which they are subjected.

Lord Sandhurst assumes that the matter is now closed. By this assumption he proves that he has altogether failed to appreciate the sense of outrage which his high-handed action has aroused, not only in the minds of St. Bartholomew's nurses, but throughout the nursing world.

Never has any appointment to a position in the nursing world aroused such a deep sense of resentment as the ruthless betrayal of the interests of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nursing School by a crafty clique of anti-registration enemies.

#### GOVERNORS WHO DO NOT GOVERN.

The claim of the Treasurer, Lord Sandhurst, that the Election Committee is irresponsible of the Governors in making appointments is some-

\* This appeared in an officially inspired statement in the *Westminster Gazette* of June 8th.

what borne out by the regulations which were adopted in 1905, when the Election Committee was instituted.

This Committee of thirty persons has apparently full power to appoint and discharge the senior officials, including the Matron, and therefore, as Sir Henry Homewood Crawford pointed out, the discussion of such appointments by the Governors is a farce.

Ten members of the Election Committee can appoint to the most important positions in the hospital, and any senior official can be dismissed and ruined upon the vote of fifteen persons without any appeal to the Governors being possible, while dissenting Governors are powerless to grant any redress, even if they believe appointments to be injurious and dismissals unjust.

So far as members of the medical staff are concerned, their status is protected by the powers of the Medical Board. But the standards of the Nursing School are apparently the sport of any reactionary cabal within the Election Committee. No appointment could have been made which would have been more bitterly resented by past and present members of the Nursing School than that which the Election Committee have made, and the Governors would be well advised to consider whether they are justified in delegating their powers to a sub-committee. For whether they renounce these powers or not they are held responsible for the appointment, for the standard of the school, and the well-being of the nursing staff.

No flagrant injustice is ever done without injurious consequences, and it is inevitable that in honour, in credit, and in public estimation St. Bartholomew's Hospital will suffer for the cruel humiliation, knowingly inflicted upon the whole Nursing Staff.

We congratulate the 500 members of the Nursing Staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital past and present, who have most constitutionally and respectfully placed before the Committees and Governors their disapproval of the depreciation of their term of training and certificate, by the appointment of a lady to superintend their work who holds an inferior qualification from a school in which the professional ethics are diametrically opposed to their own.

To the unselfish and courageous women who at once formed the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee, and especially to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Shuter, whose public spirited work has been beyond all praise, this Journal extends its hearty congratulations. Though the extent of success is not always immediately apparent all worthy and honourable deeds contribute to the ultimate good.

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