

## The Defence of Nursing Standards Committee.

Much publicity has been given in the press to the burning question of the Bart's Matronship. A lively correspondence is going on in the *City Press* and the *Pall Mall Gazette* and other papers are also giving space to its discussion.

At the meeting of the Court of Common Council at the Guildhall last week Mr. H. Dixon Kimber asked the Town Clerk whether he had received a letter from Mrs. Shuter, Secretary of the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee, and if so why it was not mentioned on the Agenda. The Town Clerk replied that he had received the letter. He had not replied to it because Mr. Kimber had mentioned the matter to him. It has not been put on the Agenda because it was not the custom of the Court to be approached by letter by self-constituted bodies, but by way of a Petition, which one member must back.

Mr. Kimber said that as no answer had been sent to the lady, and she had therefore had no opportunity of putting her communication on foolscap instead of on letter paper, and the matter was one of much importance, he would ask leave of the hon. members to move a Resolution without notice. This, however, was not acceded to.

As St. Bartholomew's is the only general hospital within the City boundaries, nurses who have been trained there were naturally anxious to bring the circumstances of the appointment of the new Matron before the Court of Common Council, an end which has been attained.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DATE.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	30	3	6
Mrs. Shaw	5	0	0
F. Rickett, Esq.	2	2	0
Dr. Stabb	1	1	0
Mrs. Stabb	1	1	0
Mrs. Homan	1	1	0
Mrs. Myers	1	1	0
Miss M. Breay	1	1	0
A Well Wisher	1	1	0
A. Donaldson, Esq.	1	0	0
"Amicus"	1	0	0
A League Member	1	0	0
Miss Prichard...	10	6	
Mrs. de Segundo	10	0	
Mrs. Matthews	5	0	
Miss M. Burr	2	6	
Mrs. Kingsford	2	6	
A Gold Medallist	2	0	
Sister Frances	1	0	
Mrs. Priestley, Certificated Nurse	1	0	
Miss Ransome,	1	0	
Miss Banfield,	1	0	
M. W. J.,	1	0	

M. W.,	"	"	...	1	0
M. C.,	"	"	...	1	0
M. B.,	"	"	...	1	0
F. G. S.,	"	"	...	1	0
E. F. S.,	"	"	...	1	0
E. H. G.,	"	"	...	1	0
E. E. C.,	"	"	...	1	0
M. P. H.,	"	"	...	1	0
E. B. K.,	"	"	...	1	0
A. Bart's Nurse	"	"	...	1	0

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## Passive Resistance.

View Day at "Bart's," when the Governors make their annual inspection of the hospital, has from time immemorial been a flowery festival, and a time of good fellowship. Soon after dawn Sisters and nurses pay a visit to Covent Garden, and return laden with the finest flowers in bloom. With these the wards are turned into lovely bowers, and patrons, visitors, medicos, and patients are lost in admiration. Come tea-time, the Sisters and nurses welcome all and sundry, and dispense the kindest hospitality. That is an orthodox View Day—View Day as it has always been celebrated within living memory.

Alas! this year, when on Thursday the Governors paid their visit, few of the wards presented the usual gala appearance, the old-time gaiety was hushed, and in the majority of wards hospitality was conspicuous by its absence. A grey veil seemed drawn between the old time happiness and joy.

"Yes, we are in mourning," it was remarked. "Mutual respect and loyalty have been the mainspring of our work these many years. These be sensitive things. We mourn that they have been so ruthlessly handled."

As an expression of their disapproval of the part taken by the representatives of the medical staff, in the depreciation of the professional status of their certificate at the recent election of a Matron, the Sisters with few exceptions did not attend the Abernethian Lecture, to which they are always invited, which was delivered by the Senior Physician on Thursday, the 23rd inst. Their determination to absent themselves aroused a lively sense of apprehension, and members of the junior medical staff made urgent requests in the wards that this very effective passive resistance should not be persisted in. As a result, a sprinkling of the Sisters attended. Men have got to learn the lesson that they cannot trample upon the sensibilities of women in these days, if they hope for loyal service and support. The medical staff have the power to have a great wrong rectified if they choose.

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