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**Editorial.**

**THE DUTY AND CHARGE OF THE GOVERNORS  
OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.**

"It is your duty and charge to acquit yourself in that office with all faithfulness and sincerity, endeavouring that the affairs and business of the said Hospital may be well ordered and managed; and promoting the weal and advantage of the poor wounded, sick, maimed, diseased persons harboured in the said Hospital."—*From the Governors' Charge.*

A General Court of Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been convened for Thursday, July 28th, and it is announced that at this Court the recent appointment of Matron will be under consideration. Under the circumstances attending the appointment made by the Election Committee, independent nurses holding the certificate of the hospital have considered it their duty to communicate with all the Governors, asking that, before it is too late, they will exert their utmost influence to prevent the appointment being carried into effect, and to secure an Inquiry into the management of the Nursing Department.

Although the nurses have apparently everything against them, they are confident that the large majority of Governors do not understand the wrong which has been done in their name. Every endeavour has been made to keep the matter quiet, and why? Because those who have perpetrated, or consented to, this wrong are afraid of the truth, whereas the nurses desire nothing better than full publicity, and that all the facts should be known.

Why do the nurses desire an Inquiry? Because the appointment, as it stands, is a direct vote of censure upon the nursing in the wards of the hospital and upon the training of the nurses, and in that censure both the living and the dead are implicated. Further, they consider that the Election Committee have by their

action practically passed a vote of censure on the Governors themselves, and their methods and standard of training, and on the medical as well as the nursing officers. Because if the system of training in force does not qualify the pupils of the hospital for the higher positions in the nursing world, and to this the medical members of the Election Committee apparently have agreed—that is practically a vote of censure on the educational system in force.

The nurses rightly hold that here is matter for inquiry. If, as they believe, the system of training will compare favourably with that of any nurse training school in the kingdom; if they can point to pupils of the school, who, trained under its system, have gained, and held with distinction, appointments of first-class importance at home and abroad, then the nurses claim that the Election Committee have subjected the school, and those who have been responsible for it, to unmerited condemnation and injury, in passing over, in the appointment of Matron, not only its own well-qualified pupils, but other applicants with *three years' certificates* who have held the position of Matron, in favour of a candidate with a *two years' certificate of training*, who has merely been a Matron's Assistant and who has never held an independent and responsible charge.

The nurses appeal to the Governors, who include the Queen Mother and the Queen Consort, to institute a searching inquiry into the whole matter, and meanwhile to prevent the appointment being carried into effect. They rely upon the Governors, whom they have always served loyally, to acquit themselves "with all faithfulness and sincerity" at this crisis, and to take such action in the maintenance of justice as will satisfy public opinion and maintain the honourable record of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

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