

sick under Pastor Fliedner and a Lutheran Sisterhood, she found that Dr. Maximilian Jacobi had already been practising and encouraging an intelligent and sympathetic personal attendance at the Mental Hospitals in Siegburg for a period of ten years, and her efforts and enthusiasm have imparted to our own asylums a new embodiment of the spirit of humanity by improved nursing. This departure was first accepted and carried into practice by Dr. W. F. A. Browne, of the Crichton Royal Institute, who first systematically lectured to nurses on the insane. The English Lunacy Commissioners made this question of nursing in asylums a special subject for inquiry and investigation, and in their Report to the Lord Chancellor in 1859 they advocated the engaging of competent attendants and nurses of good character and of superior education, urging as a paramount duty that of adopting every possible means of securing the zealous services of a competent staff upon all who were responsible for the care and treatment of the insane. Twenty years later, in 1879, the English Lunacy Commissioners further pointed out that much of the difficulty, the want of progress, and the scandal in connection with asylums arose from an insufficiency of wages given to the nursing staff.

It is somewhat surprising that although Florence Nightingale's example and precept had been before the world since 1856, yet it took a whole generation for the idea inculcated and implanted by her to bear fruit. As recently as 1880 it is affirmed that there did not exist in any asylum in the world an organised school for the training of nurses for the insane. The plan which Miss Nightingale adopted was to make the hospital a school, and in giving training to nurses the hospital or the institution received in turn its own reward of trained service. The whole of her scheme may be summarised as "training and teaching," and the value of this suggestion was appreciated in many of the best general hospitals, which commenced to train their staff about the year 1876—viz., twenty years after the significant lessons of the Crimean War. It is only fair to some of the Medical Directors of Asylums to state that the advantages of the Nightingale system were fully realised by them, and individual efforts at reform in asylum nursing were put into practice at several asylums, notably in Scotland, which has always been to the fore in the care and treatment of the insane, but there was no united and general effort—and here we see the supreme advantage of organised combination.

(To be continued.)

The Battle of the Standards.

JUSTICE DEMANDED.

A General Court of Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital is convened for July 28th, and the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee has addressed an appeal to the Governors to use their influence to prevent the appointment of the new Matron being carried into effect, and that a Public Inquiry be held into the management of the Nursing Department.

Every unbiassed person naturally concludes that if the present system of training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital cannot train an efficient Matron in 23 years, a new system should be inaugurated, but that if this supposition can be amply refuted—as it is known that it can be—it is the duty of the Governors to protect their own nurses from unmerited condemnation unheard.

AN INSULT TO THE DEAD.

Miss L. L. Dock writes plainly in the *American Journal of Nursing* what is whispered throughout the nursing world at home and abroad, though we are aware that the large majority of the Election Committee did not realise the wrong which was being done.

"While nurses of all countries are mourning Miss Stewart, a most unheard of insult to her memory in the shameless attempt to wipe out all the influence of her life work has been the action of the Election Committee in selecting her successor. Briefly—for the news has come after our pages have been set—the Election Committee of Bart's has chosen an Assistant Matron from the London Hospital, a woman who has never had a Matron's experience, and one who is evidently meant to be only the tool of the anti-Registration element in the Hospital's Committee, and, doubtless also, of the element who are willing to make huge profits for hospitals out of the sweated labour of nurses. The London Hospital sends out its pupils to private duty, besides running a large private staff for its own profit, and it is the central stronghold of anti-registration and of hostility to self-governing organisations among nurses. Its certificate, moreover, is given for one year less than Bart's, and the women who train there are not encouraged to think for themselves. It is well known that those of them who do, even when engaged in work of great distinction, meet with an icy reception if they venture within the doors. The details of this incident are such as to make one feel certain that a plot has been preparing before Miss Stewart's death; for the knowledge that she was doomed by an incurable disease was general."

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