

The Defence of Nursing Standards Committee.

(THE ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.)

The following Petition has been sent by the above Committee to the majority of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. :—

(To the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.)

SIR OR MADAM,—We venture once again to bring to your notice a matter we believe to be of vital importance to the welfare of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and its Nursing School.

A General Court of Governors is convened for July 28th, and we earnestly appeal to you to be present. Presumably the Election of Miss Annie McIntosh as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital will be reported to the Court, with the reasons which influenced the Election Committee to appoint a lady as head of your Nursing School who holds the London Hospital certificate of two years' training only, a professional certificate which does not qualify her to be appointed as a Staff Nurse or Sister at your Hospital, where from the year 1881 your standard before certification has been a term of three years' training in the wards.

We desire especially to bring to your notice that this retrograde step must materially damage the future success of your Nursing School, and that of every nurse holding its certificate, and place the Sisters and Nurses in the Hospital in a position in which discipline will be most difficult to maintain.

Under these circumstances may we plead with you, as a Governor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to exert your utmost influence to prevent this appointment being carried into effect, by supporting a motion that the Report be not adopted, and that a Public Enquiry be held into the management of the Nursing Department.

I am, Sir or Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ELLEN SHUTER,
Hon. Secretary.

In an article on this question, which appeared in the *Standard* on July 19th, it is stated in reporting the attitude of the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital towards their nurses that they consider "the present controversy is an unwarranted interference in matters that only concern the administration and the medical body of the institution!"

Coming events, indeed, cast their shadows before them.

We are well aware that the London Hospital restrictions in matters nursing are the aim of the secretarial ambition at "Bart's," but that half a dozen men may do a wrong, of a peculiarly cruel and injurious nature, calculated to slander the dead, and amounting to a

breach of faith with every nurse certificated by the hospital, and that in the twentieth century the hundreds of women so affronted are to accept such injury without expressing an opinion on their own affairs cannot be conceded for a moment. Such a suggestion is an exhibition of the intolerant temper animating not a few of our hospital managers towards trained nurses, which deserves the widest publicity and unhesitating condemnation.

The few men who have done this wrong in their jealous intolerance of an honourable body of professional women workers are well known, but if they imagine that in these days women will submit to gross injustice without a very forcible protest—well—they have made the mistake of a lifetime, as events may prove.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DATE.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	52	14	6
Certificated Nurse	1	0	0
Miss Dalgish	10	6	
Miss Webb	10	0	
Miss Cullen	5	0	
Miss Waind	5	0	
Miss Smyth	5	0	
Miss Gregory	2	6	
Miss Le Geyt	2	6	
Mrs. W. Heywood	2	6	
A Sister	2	6	
" " Nurse	2	0	
Staff Nurse	1	0	
" " "	1	0	
F. E. H.	1	0	
A Bart's Nurse	1	0	
M. O.	1	0	
F. C.	1	0	
H. R.	1	0	
M. C.	1	0	
R. N. S.	1	0	
O S.	1	0	
Staff Pro.	1	0	
	56	13	0

A Useful Pamphlet.

A very useful pamphlet containing "Suggestions for Nurses on Some Special Points in Connection with Moral and Physical Health" has been issued for private circulation, and can be obtained from the Central Organiser of the Nurses' Social Union, Kingston, Taunton, price 3d., postage 1d. Nurses and midwives come so intimately into touch with these problems that the pamphlet should be of much use to them. It is written primarily for nurses enrolled in a League formed to promote a higher moral standard, of which most of the members are district nurses working in rural areas, but it has also a wider sphere of usefulness.

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