

The certificated nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who formed the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee, considered it their duty and their right to place before the Treasurer and Governors the depreciation of their three years' training and certificate, which would inevitably result from placing a woman as Superintendent of Nursing in their School, whose professional qualification of two years' training would not qualify her to be a Staff Nurse! A woman, moreover, who had never had charge of wards, or independent superintendence, as Matron of a hospital, and whose whole professional associations were with an institution the unjust economic conditions of which for nurses are condemned by all unprejudiced persons. Moreover, the Defence of Nursing Standards Committee were well aware of the interested interference of the officials of the London Hospital concerning the Bart's appointment.

In common with the whole nursing world Miss Lütches knows that nearly every sister and nurse in the hospital signed a statement to the Treasurer, Almoners, and Governors, contradicting an inspired paragraph in the press that they were satisfied with the appointment.

Ultimately the "London" nominee was thrust upon the Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's, upon the threat of the Treasurer to the Governors to resign, if this most unjust election were not approved. The Governors thereupon betrayed their trust to their own nurses, and, for the sake of expediency, dealt a blow at the educational and disciplinary standards of their Nursing School, from which it will never recover until the wrong has been righted.

The choice of resignation and loss of well earned pensions for the Sisters, and of resignation and educational disruption for nurses in training, or submission to this decision, was the cruel alternative which these working women had to face. The few who could claim their pensions did so, and departed; the majority, influenced by necessity, remained. It is almost impious of Miss Lütches to use the word "loyalty" in connection with this treatment of their nurses by the officials and Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Compulsory submission to injustice never breeds "loyalty," the gracious essence poured out of the human heart only before things sweet and lovely. Loyalty at "Bart's" is reserved for the memory of that noble woman, whose whole life of devoted service has been purposely and most cruelly depreciated by those who owed it honourable recognition. As her professional antagonist it may appear for the moment that Miss Lütches

has triumphed over the great dead. But surely ultimate power is with abstract good.

The Nursing School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital may or may not be given the power in the future to regain its prestige and self-respect, but until it is given such power it ranks as the mere *dependance* of the London Hospital—an institution ruthlessly commercial in its relations and entirely devoid of professional ethics towards the Nursing Profession as a whole.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for State Registration acknowledges with many thanks £2 2s. towards expenses of the Nursing Pageant from the President and members of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, £1 1s. from Miss Janet Stewart, and 2s. 6d. from Miss Tindall, Bombay, to the General Fund.

WEDDING BELLS.

Miss E. Nicholson, Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, has resigned the appointment owing to her approaching marriage with Mr. Charles Roberts, F.R.C.S., surgeon to that institution. Miss Nicholson, who was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was gold medallist of her year, and Mr. Roberts has won many honours in his profession. A wide circle of friends will wish Miss Nicholson every happiness in the new life before her.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A very pleasant meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association was held on Saturday, June 3rd, at the Richmond Hospital, by invitation of Miss Holden. The weather was all that could be desired and the beautiful grounds looked their best.

Tea was served on small tables under the trees, and tennis, croquet, races, games, and Aunt Sally were indulged in afterwards, prizes being given to the successful competitors. Madame La Frande, Palmist, proved a great attraction.

The resident staff very kindly provided a band, and the evening closed with dancing on the lawn.

The following Programme of Summer Amusements has been arranged:—

Thursday, June 22nd.—Killiney Hill, Victoria Gate. Cyclists meet at Donnybrook Terminus, 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 15th.—The Scalp. Cyclists meet at Clonskea Tram Terminus, 4 p.m.

Friday, July 28th.—Howth Summit. Cyclists meet at The Crescent, Clontarf, 4 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)