

feeble, and not perceptible at the wrist, or it may have been hurried and incomplete, too early as well as too short.

Miss Gladys Tatham states that a very hard, full pulse unaccompanied by fever indicates that the blood pressure of the patient is too high. Cases of this kind are frequently met with in elderly men, who have once been accustomed to a life of activity and athletics, and have eaten accordingly. But with advancing years, or the cares of business, their exercise has dwindled without a corresponding decrease in their diet. Such subjects are often gouty.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the most unusual and interesting obstetrical case you have nursed.

### THE ANTI-REGISTRATION UKASE AT BART.'S.

(Continued from page 8.)

To the nursing world in general the suicidal policy adopted in 1910, so far as the status and stability of the Nursing School at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is concerned, remains a mystery. After spending thirty years in consolidating its skill and prestige, why at one fell swoop demolish it?

It is no mystery to us.

The explanation is simple. The Secretarial Department was jealous of the power of the Nursing Department.

Consequently the Nursing Department must be subordinated to the Secretarial Department. The question how to do it.

*Sweep away honourable tradition.*

Thus the last year of her life was a sad one for the dying woman who so valiantly protected the interests of the Nursing School.

By death came opportunity long awaited.

It was rumoured that no woman trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital would succeed to power.

Help was sought where it was well known help would be eagerly proffered, and subsequently the advertisement issued for a Superintendent of Nursing for the Senior Royal Hospital in the Empire required no professional standard of certification. But what it did define was an age limit known to exclude the four most eligible women certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who held honourable and responsible appointments in London and Birmingham. Ultimately the whole nursing world was indignant at the appointment of a Matron's Assistant from the great East End emporium of Nurses at the London Hospital, who escaped

the age limit by only six months, who held a certificate for only two years' training, who had never had any independent professional charge as Sister or Matron, and who, moreover, was not eligible according to the professional grades at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to hold the position of Staff Nurse!

How was this accomplished?

By those opposed to liberty of conscience in the nursing world, through the fatal ignorance of the governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the apathy of its medical staff, where the nurses' interests were concerned.

Miss Annie McIntosh, the lady selected, was, to do her justice, credited with the desire to retire when the outburst of just indignation at her appointment found expression in the press at home and abroad. But, according to report, this course was not permitted by the anti-registration autocrats at the London Hospital.

Anyway, after a lapse of some months to allow natural indignation to simmer down, the new régime began at Bart.'s, and how complete it was may be judged from appearances if they count for anything. The new Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with its almost cloisteral traditions of simplicity of garb, appeared in the morning on duty in a pale blue, hobble-skirted garment, with cream lace *decolleté* transparencies at neck and arms!

Who was to bell the cat about that costume provoked an agitated discussion throughout the institution for days; ultimately, to the immense relief of the community, it disappeared.

Apparently the *mot d'ordre* was general affability until such time as it would be wise to strike.

Two years have seen the passing of every Sister who could afford to retire, so that time came a few weeks ago when one of these officials asked the Matron for permission for the nurses to discuss their own professional affairs in the Home, a privilege they had enjoyed for thirty years past.

Then the London Hospital policy against liberty of speech on the question of State Registration was put in force.

Permission was refused, and we are informed that the Treasurer and Committee have given their support to this insupportable prohibition.

This tyrannous action will, we have no doubt, give just the impetus required to carry the Nurses' Registration Bill high and dry on to the Statute Book of these Realms.

Anyway, it will be the duty of this JOURNAL to stand firm in its demand for liberty of conscience, and freedom of speech, for the members of the great Profession it serves.

E. G. F.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)