

cases required as much nursing as others. She considered that the conditions were to blame when Nursing Homes could not get nurses.

The public hearing then concluded, and the witness gave further evidence *in camera*.

INSPECTION BY "INTERFERING NURSES" WOULD BE RESENTED.

Sir Cyril Cobb was in the Chair on June 15th, when the first witness was Dr. Francis W. Underhill, of Maidenhead, who said that for the past forty years or more he had received resident patients or paying guests, mostly borderland cases, in his private house. He took cases sent by the Board of Control. At the present time he had seven such cases, five of whom needed no nursing attention whatever. He had two nurse-companions to look after two, the others looked after themselves. He engaged nurses as and when required. He would resent inspection by any young official, or interfering nurses, but would not mind visits from the Medical Officer of Health. He would support registration of Nursing Homes if doctors' houses were exempt.

Replying to Dr. Davies the witness said that the "nurse-companions" referred to were not fully trained, he was not sure whether they had had much training of any sort. He did not consider that fully-trained nurses were necessary for the kind of patients he received. He admitted that the "nurse-companions" were dressed as nurses, that the public would probably think they were trained nurses, and that the patients might regard them as such.

Dr. Charles F. Scott, of Brondesbury, who said he received one or two patients into his private house, considered that there was no demand for the registration or inspection of doctors' Homes, and he considered it unnecessary. It might be well to register Nursing and Lying-in Homes managed by nurses and others. Patients could, he said, be nursed in doctors' houses by other than trained nurses.

INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION WOULD RESULT IN A HIGHER STANDARD.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., M.D., M.A., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon, London Temperance Hospital, and Hon. Medical Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association, said that the Council of the Association were in favour of the Registration of Nursing Homes.

In his opinion Nursing Homes ought to be inspected and registered as a protection to the public. Registration would be to the advantage of the better Nursing Homes.

Criticism of Nursing Homes might, he said, be made under four headings:—

(1) *Structural Arrangements*.—The majority of Nursing Homes are private houses adapted more or less (chiefly less) for the purpose. Many of them are totally unsuitable for the purpose to which they are put. In some the narrow wooden staircases do not permit of a patient being carried up and down stairs on a rigid stretcher. In such cases the patient has to be carried on a chair, or bundled up on a canvas stretcher, a most undesirable, if not dangerous procedure.

It is not pleasant to contemplate what would happen in the case of fire in some of these Nursing Homes. Admitting that in a Nursing Home a fire would probably be discovered early, nevertheless the danger should be kept in view and adequate means of escape be made compulsory.

(2) *Sanitation*.—The sanitary arrangements in many Nursing Homes are not only inadequate, but often defective, and below the standard which should obtain in a building devoted to the nursing of the sick.

(3) *Operation Theatre Arrangements*.—These are often unsatisfactory and dangerous. The presence of open gas burners in the operation theatre in which ether may be administered is a potential source of danger. That there are not more accidents is due to good luck rather than to good management.

(4) *Nursing*.—In some Nursing Homes the staff consists partly of totally unqualified nurses. They are dressed in nurses' uniform, and the patients imagine that they are being cared for by a trained nurse. This is a fraud on the public and is not right. The patient pays to be nursed, and ought to be nursed by one who has been trained in her profession.

Some Nursing Homes are in charge of an untrained nurse. He considered it should be obligatory that the person in charge of the nursing arrangements should be a duly qualified registered nurse.

In many Nursing Homes no duty room is provided for the nurse to sit down in while she is on duty. In the intervals between looking after her patients she has to sit on the stairs or in the patient's room, both of which alternatives are undesirable.

Mr. Paterson said that he knew there were many thoroughly well-managed and efficient Nursing Homes, but there were also many bad ones. On the whole we were far behind America in this matter, and there could be little doubt that inspection and registration would result in a higher standard.

He suggested that the Ministry of Health should be the Registration Authority.

L.C.C. BYE-LAWS.

Miss Homersham, proprietress of a Nursing Home in which she receives Maternity cases, said it was registered under the L.C.C. She had no objection to registration as a Nursing Home or to inspection, but, if such registration were enforced, she hoped that the Bye-Law would not be modelled on those of the L.C.C. for Maternity Homes. She objected to being described as the "Keeper" of the Home, and to the whole tone of them. She knew that many Nursing Homes were not carried on properly, and thought registration would cause "a good many to be closed down."

A PATIENT'S EXPERIENCES.

On June 17th a lady, who stated that she had frequently been a patient in Nursing Homes in London and the Provinces, related her experiences. She described the food as bad and monotonous, and said that when paying from 16 to 18 guineas a week she had to provide her own nurses, and afterwards discovered they had to attend on other patients also. Hot water was scarce, baths horribly dirty, and the nurses overworked. She was in favour of registration and of surprise visits from Inspectors.

This was the last public meeting of the Committee, whose Report has now been laid upon the table of the House.

DIPLOMA IN NURSING.

At the recent examination held at the Leeds University three candidates gained the Diploma in Nursing.

Miss Ida M. Bohlman, trained in the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, now doing Public Health work in Bradford.

Miss Elsie K. Norminton, trained in the General Infirmary, Leeds.

Miss Marjory Young, trained in the Royal Hants and Southampton Hospital.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the results of the medal examinations for nurses held by the Metropolitan Asylums Board in February and April last:—

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Gold Medal.—Probationer A. P. Tibbits, Park Hospital.

Silver Medal.—Probationer E. M. Salter, South Western Hospital.

SURGICAL TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

Silver Medal.—Probationer M. Hockley, Princess Mary's Hospital for Children.

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, CARSHALTON.

Silver Medal.—Probationer L. D. Hutchison.

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