

so there could be no accident from cotton wool catching alight, or other accidents that could not always be guarded against. They must be careful to see the lights were always turned out when not required, otherwise the expense would be very great. There had been an increase in the expenditure, no doubt due to the rise in price of certain commodities. There were also eleven new Ward Maids, which he considered a rightful expenditure. He learnt, while presiding over the House of Lords Committee, that the Nurses had quite as much as they could do, and that Lady Probationers were not fairly treated in having to do work when they ought to be learning nursing, considering the money they paid. But the system was not quite perfect yet; and by the next Quarterly Court he hoped other improvements would have been made. Another alteration was that the chloroformists should be paid £100 per annum, and devote certain days in the week to the Hospital. The Medical School was flourishing, and they had three hundred students, being third on the list of London schools. His anxiety to do all he could to keep the Hospitals off the rates was his reason for moving as he had done in the House of Lords. He knew of no country—and he had been to Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and the Hague—where there was an Institution of that description. He was glad to see the rivalry that existed, and the General Courts which were held several times a year. Of course, they should have closed courts for administrative purposes, but it was well also to have open ones such as that. The public eye was a good safeguard in the carrying on of the work of the Institution: the executive was kept from getting into wild extravagance, and from treating its officers with injustice. So long as they continued to deserve public support he was sure it would be forthcoming."

LORD SANDHURST thoroughly grasps the position of the Chairman to a Committee dispensing public charity. His words are words of wisdom, and should be laid to heart by a few of his "absolute autocrat" type of fellow Chairmen, Messrs. J. G. WAINWRIGHT and MURRAY-IND, for instance, would do well to study the attitude of this "wise young judge" in their administration of Hospital laws.

NURSES have to thank this month's *Provincial Medical Journal* for a kindly word in season, which I insert in full:—

"We publish in another column an annotation from Dr. ERNEST SANSOM on the 'Registration of Nurses,' in opposition to the views we expressed in the last number of *The Provincial Medical Journal*. Even admitting that the present Registration scheme may not secure the ideal standard aimed at by Dr. SANSOM and those who sympathise with him, we yet believe it would be better for the interest of Nurses to accept an imperfect scheme in order to make a beginning. When the 'Dentists' Register' was first established a large number had to be admitted whose qualifications did not reach the ideal standard set up by those who initiated the registration of Dentists, but owing to its provisions the Registration of the future was brought up to a higher standard, and in process of time the 'Dentists' Register' will be as respectable a record of professional workers as the

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Medical Register. We say, admitting Dr. SANSOM's arguments, but we can hardly think that the eminent medical men who are agitating for the Registration of Nurses are less alive to the importance of a high standard than Dr. SANSOM and his supporters. The Royal British Nurses' Association have issued a draft charter."

[Our contemporary then quoted the list of ladies and gentlemen to be incorporated to form the Association.]

"The names above given are a sufficient voucher for competence as to the advisability of the scheme we support; and we think we were justified in expressing our surprise that there should be any opposition. The Nursing world, it is true, is divided in opinion, and some of the Training Schools are anxious to keep in their own hands the reins of power, and the reason is not far to seek. We must all recognise the admirable work that has been done by Dr. SANSOM and by some of the Colleges and Schools, but we are rather inclined to think that both Dr. SANSOM and the Lady Superintendents who support him take too narrow a view of the situation. It is not to the general interest of Nurses that all the power should be placed in the hands of a few Training Schools, however excellent these Schools may be. It hardly requires any argument to substantiate this statement. The Royal British Nurses' Association will advance the general interest of Nurses wherever trained, and will act with impartiality independent of cliques and parties, for its basis is broader, and it will necessarily take a more comprehensive view of all Nursing questions. We have formed our views on broad principles, and we are in a measure removed altogether from the strife of parties."

MR. EDITOR tells me that he intends to deal more pointedly with Dr. ERNEST SANSOM's parabolical annotation next week. Suffice it to say that this is the third medical paper in which Dr. SANSOM has bitterly attacked the Association and its work, and the third in which he has received the snub direct. That any member of the Medical Staff of the London Hospital should attempt to pose either as an authority in Nursing matters—or as a champion of Nurses—after the *exposé* before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, is simply extraordinary. Let Dr. SANSOM remove the beam out of his own eye before constituting himself the operator on that of his neighbour, and let him understand, once and for all, that there are members of the Nursing profession, who, on principle, will fight to the bitter end against the system of absolute autocracy and grinding tyranny, the white slavery and unjustifiable sweating, the ruined healths and ghastly death-rate for which the London Hospital has earned such a terrible reputation. There are still living, witnesses of the death struggles of poor Nurses PAIRMAN, SABEL, and VANNAH EDWARDS, precious young lives—I have no hesitation in saying—cruelly sacrificed by neglect and overwork. If Dr. SANSOM is so ignorant of the estimation in which

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