

It is reported that "promotion by purchase" (a death-blow to emulation and justice) has been instituted in the Nursing arrangements in connection with the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. It seems that those women who can afford to pay thirty guineas for one year's training are to receive a Certificate at the end of that short term, whilst their poorer sisters are to give a second year's service, in lieu of cash, and receive a different Certificate. This system is thoroughly improper and obsolete. A Hospital of the standing of the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford should have a thorough curriculum of training, for which a pupil should pay if necessary; and all Nurses certificated by it should attain to one high standard, and be awarded the same Certificate. For women to be able to procure a Certificate as half-trained upon the payment of thirty guineas, and to be, at the end of twelvemonths' work, able to delude the public by posing as a Radcliffe Infirmary Certificated Nurse, is establishing a low standard of Nursing which is discreditable to Oxford, detrimental to good Nursing, and deceitful to the public.

I AM glad to read, in the Report of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, that, "Fees for Nurses' services amounted in 1891, to £287, against £429 in 1890, the reduction being principally due to the larger number of Nurses employed in the Hospital. A considerable number of applications for Private Nurses were necessarily refused on that account." This is as it should be in a Hospital; charity first, *commerce* second.

At the invitation of the LADY MAYORESS, a large number of Workhouse Matrons and Visitors were present at a conference at the Mansion House. The subject of discussion was the best means of helping friendless workhouse girls after leaving the Unions. Lady RAYLEIGH presided, and the Rev. G. R. THORNTON, Mrs. E. M. MOORE, of Wimbledon, the Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT, and the Rev. Dr. WHITE, among others, took part in the discussion, which resulted in an agreement to elect a corresponding agent with the three societies—the Girls' Friendly Society, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Young Servants' Society—in order to place workhouse girls seeking employment in London under their protection. On the proposal of the LADY MAYORESS, Miss A. LEE-WARNER was appointed honorary agent for the County of Essex, as a commencement of the movement.

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THE General Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which was held last Friday, was largely attended. The chief interest centred in the election of Dr. BEZLY THORNE as Hon. Secretary of the Association. It is an open secret that since that office was vacated by Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK, when he accepted the post of Treasurer, last autumn, the utmost difficulty has been experienced in persuading any medical gentleman to undertake the onerous duties of the office. And it is also further understood that it was only because it became apparent that it was essential for the welfare of the Association that the post should be filled, that Dr. THORNE kindly yielded to the earnest requests made to him, and accepted the position. It will be universally felt that it must be a great sacrifice to one already so overworked to give up so much time and thought as the post must entail; but his assistance will be an invaluable gain and benefit to the Association. It is a matter of small wonder, therefore, that his election was hailed with loud and prolonged applause.

THE General Council for 1892-1893 were chosen, and the list will be sent out in the May number of *The Nurses' Journal*, so that every member will have an opportunity of voting for those who are to compose the governing body of the Association. This is a new departure, and one which is certainly to be highly commended, as it gives everyone a direct voice and interest in the management of the Association. In fact, the constitution of the Nurses' union is a model, which, for freedom and fairness, might well be imitated by other professional societies. I understand that the list, as it finally results from the voting of the members, will be formally reported to the Annual Meeting for its sanction and adoption. Then, at the first meeting of each new General Council, which will apparently take place in October, the Executive Committee and the honorary officers for the ensuing twelve months will be elected, and so the cycle of workers will be maintained in constant succession.

So far as the Royal Charter was concerned, it was only formally reported that the Draft Charter was now under the consideration of the Privy Council, the Executive Committee very wisely giving no information as to its plan of campaign. But several speakers alluded to the great measure of support which the Association was receiving, both from medical men and the public, and much pleasure was expressed at the important and in-

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