

Fund for Nurses charges these women from twenty to twenty-six per cent. more for its annuities than old-established and wealthy insurance offices require, we feel compelled to dissent from the well-meant suggestion of the Committee that hospitals should subscribe to this most expensive fund for this purpose.

The statement that the Committee is 'strongly of opinion that no absolute power ought to be given to any matron, but that the appointments and dismissals (of the probationers) should be made by the chief executive authority of the hospital,' is a most important judgment upon various strange admissions made by certain executive authorities at the inquiry. It will be very generally endorsed, because autocracy is out of date, and it is easy to imagine that of all autocracies a nursing despotism in our hospitals would be the most intolerable. We have no hesitation in saying that the medical staff of any hospital, where such an autocracy exists, owe it to their profession, as well as to themselves, to insist upon its immediate abolition. For many reasons, their Lordships have done wisely in drawing attention to the custom which obtains at one of our larger hospitals of issuing certificates to the nurses according to the discretion of the matron, and even of awarding these credentials and terming both the nurse's capabilities and conduct 'good,' 'when the matron is by no means satisfied with' her. The Committee very naturally questions whether it is desirable that such certificates should be issued. It will be a matter of grave surprise that unsatisfactory nurses should be stamped by any public institution as 'good,' and that, at the discretion of any matron, good, bad, and indifferent nurses should thus be placed, so far as the public is concerned, upon one dead level of certificated efficiency."

## Inventions, Preparations, &c.

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The Training School for Nurses and Private Nursing Institute is at 67, Welbeck Street. Some former Students are earning from £100 to £400 a year. Masseurs and Masseuses sent to Patients' houses; or Patients can be treated at the Institute, by Massage and all forms of Electricity, and allied Methods. Nurses trained at St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, and other London Hospitals sent to Medical and Surgical Cases; and Nurses are invited to enter as Members. Ladies and Gentlemen required as collectors for the Samaritan Department upon Liberal Terms. The Fifth Yearly Session for instruction has resumed,

JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary

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