

may be, the Institution pays a small fixed fee to some Hospital to give its probationers a smattering of Nursing experience, then it palms off this inexperienced servant upon a gullible public, and charges for her services as if she were a "thoroughly trained Nurse." The cruelty of this to the sick, the injustice of this to well trained workers, has been too frequently insisted upon in these columns to require comment now. Miss BARNFATHER'S establishment is clearly better than many others, inasmuch as it provides its pupils with a twelve months' course of instruction, instead of the shorter terms so frequently given. Incidentally, it must be noted how Hospitals benefit pecuniarily from this system. The Worcester Infirmary apparently obtains probationers for whom it is paid, and to whom, presumably, it pays no salary. But, on the other side, it is evident that the patients of the Worcester Infirmary are taken no account of, except perhaps as necessary lay figures to be demonstrated upon. Because the evidence proves conclusively that, however unfit a short term outside probationer may prove herself to be for the serious duties of a Nurse, however detrimental or even dangerous to the sick, therefore, her "silliness" and "stupidity" may be, so long as she is franked in by an Institution, her services will be retained by the Worcester Infirmary. The declaration of the matron: "If she had been my own probationer, instead of the Institution's I should have sent her home, long ago, for her silliness," prove this fact beyond dispute. We have no hesitation in saying that it is a grave scandal that the Committee of the Worcester Infirmary should permit the sick poor who go into that Institution to be subject to such inefficient attendants, for, be it remembered, in Nursing, as in Medicine, inefficiency spells danger. Such gross, such contemptuous carelessness of the comfort and safety of the sick patients, if it is permitted to exist elsewhere, which we hesitate to believe, has certainly, within our experience, never been so openly acknowledged before.

It is, moreover, evident, if the Matron was correct in her sworn evidence, that she is helpless in this matter, and that it is the Committee which is solely to blame in thus

retaining absolutely incompetent persons as attendants upon the patients in the Worcester Infirmary—because Miss MCLLELLAND stated that, if she had had her way, she would not have kept this Nurse at all. We trust that our contemporaries in Worcester will take up this scandalous affair, and insist, in the first place, that the Committee of their Infirmary shall feign a virtue if they have it not; that they shall, at least, pretend to have some care for the sick poor in their Wards; and that they shall not retain, in their service, women who prove to be absolutely incompetent, even though the Infirmary may be paid by some Institution to admit such women into its service.

The next point to which we would draw attention is, that, so far as the evidence goes, it is manifest that, if Miss BELSEY had not, of her own accord, left the Hospital, and thereby, it may be presumed, broken her contract with the Manchester Institution, she would have completed her year's service, and would have been sent out as a trained Nurse, although, in the opinion of the person responsible for her training, she was clearly unfit to undertake such duties. This matter, so far as the public goes, is, undeniably, serious, and, once more, raises the question as to the advisability of Private Nursing Institutions pursuing this system of training their own Probationers, rather than that of engaging women who have, already, been thoroughly trained. This is so important a matter that we will recur to its consideration upon some future occasion. We have only space to consider one further aspect of these strange revelations. The carelessness of the patients' welfare has been shown, and the game of chance which is played between Private Nursing Institutions and Hospitals, so far as the education of Nurses for the richer classes is concerned. Now, let it be observed how the Institution is treated. It may be taken for granted that these Probationers are sent for a year's training, and paid for, upon the supposition that the Hospital will teach these women somewhat constantly during their limited probationary period. Yet, it appears, that Miss BELSEY was, soon after her arrival at Worcester, placed upon night duty, which must have considerably lessened her oppor-

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