

Henrietta Street Institution, '67 to date, and then St. Bartholomew's Hospital. No dates are given, and in this case there is no hospital qualification of any sort at all. The only statistic is that some time or other the Nurse had been in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. From the references and the information given in the register as to the qualification of the Nurses—assuming as I take your lordships through the cases, and I am not going to weary your lordships, that they are accurate—I shall show your lordships that in four hundred and thirty-nine cases out of 1,777 which are upon the register, and who are all Nurses who will appear upon the register of trained Nurses from year to year, on the statement of the Association themselves, in revising the list that they do not get anything like the minimum of qualifications which is suggested. There is another matter which also certainly requires consideration. If your lordships will kindly look at the printed case—of our case—you will see there that we have discovered 25 cases of mistakes in the list.

The Marquis of RYON.—At what page?

Sir R. WEBSTER.—At page 86, my lord. Now the qualifications stated here—the names are not given, but of course the names and addresses can be given to your lordships—the qualification stated here is the London Hospital 1884-85. That is a case which has been traced, and in which it has been found that the person referred to was only seven weeks on trial at the London Hospital. In the next case the qualification is stated as the London Hospital, 1883-84, and as a matter of fact, the nurse was only three months at the London Hospital. The next case is "London Hospital, 1879-80,"—only three months again. Therefore your lordships will observe that the statements made as to reference in hospital work, according to the register record, are, in the first place, statements as to the length of time which are distinctly misleading to the public. But there have been several such errors discovered. With regard to the compilation of the register, in the case of a large number of those appearing as connected with particular hospitals, no application of any sort or kind have been made to the hospital authorities. My lords, in a number of cases the hospitals have got private and confidential information which they would have been quite ready to impart.

Sir HORACE DAVEY was understood to protest against the accuracy of Sir Richard Webster's last statement.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—We are only speaking from instructions. My lords, my instructions are—and I am prepared to place evidence before your lordships to show that both at the London Hospital and at St. Thomas's Hospital no application has been received with reference to a large number of Nurses whose names appear as having qualified at those Hospitals, and that in many cases private information was at the disposal of the Hospital authorities, which authorities when they are asked for a Nurse will never send one out except in accordance with the information which they possess concerning her.

The Marquis of RYON: Do I understand you to say that no application has been made to these two hospitals in any of the cases to which you have referred?

Sir R. WEBSTER: Yes, my lord, and I don't mean those two only, but when I said that in those two cases I was prepared to prove it. I am informed, and speaking of the large number of hospitals for which I appear—altogether seven hospitals which have training institutions—no application was made to those hospitals before the names of the Nurses in question were put upon the register.

The Marquis of RYON: In the first instance?

Sir R. WEBSTER: Yes, in the first instance, my lord,

and in the great majority of the hospitals no application has been made at all with regard to the fitness of the Nurses. There have been latterly, quite lately, applications made with reference to some particular Nurses, which information was sought and given; but with regard to the applications made before the names were put on the register, or with reference to the annual continuance of the names on the register, my instructions are, my lords, that no application of any kind has been made, either to the Hospitals or Training Schools. My lords, this is not a case which depends upon the statements of Counsel, and if your lordships desire it I can tender evidence before you—if your lordships think fit to receive it—with regard to this matter. But it is essential before you consider the evidence that I should open this case fully to your lordships. I now come to No. 848—

The Marquis of RYON.—I don't know that we want any more individual cases

Sir R. WEBSTER.—Of course, these cases have been given to me on the authority of the gentlemen from the training schools, and there are a number of cases of this kind on the register of nurses.

The Marquis of RYON.—If you have any individual case which is particularly strong, and which you want to bring forward, I do not wish to prevent you from doing so, but I only say, I don't think we need it.

Sir R. WEBSTER.—I don't want to elaborate this branch of my case unreasonably, I will only say that these are cases of nurses who have been guilty of misconduct, and who have left the hospital for that reason, but whose names still appear upon this register. Nor do I bring this forward with a view of saying one word against the association if it is confined to its proper work. But it is a necessary consequence of a public body of this character attempting to do work that it is not qualified to perform; that these errors must creep in; your lordships must have noticed that they themselves do not deny the extraordinary difficulty of getting the names of incompetent nurses off the register. They admit that they might have local testimony, but persons having the local evidence would not put it forward. The statements in the register would not be privileged, the conduct of the managers of the Association would not be privileged, and later on I shall show you the distinction between this case and that of the medical register, and I shall show you what safeguards Parliament has thought fit to enjoin in connection with a register of this class. It would not, as I have stated, be possible to protect the nurses by the charter, nor would it be possible to impose penalties to prevent false statements, nor would it be possible to prevent a woman from improperly representing herself as on the register of trained Nurses. However, the last proposition is a branch of my argument to which I shall ask your lordships' serious attention presently, but which does not enter directly into the matter which I am discussing at the present moment. I need not say to my learned friend Sir Horace Davey and his advisers that any information which we have with regard to particular cases is at their disposal as well as at my own.

Sir H. DAVEY.—It has hitherto been denied us.

Sir R. WEBSTER.—It is better that a case of this kind should be conducted with the courtesy that usually prevails between counsel. There has been no refusal of the matter which I am offering to my learned friends at all, because it has been done for this case, and I am in a position to give my learned friends the same materials as we have as to the insufficiency of the Register, and the sum total of it is that out of 1,777 nurses on the Register there are 439 cases who, under no circum-

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