

individuals to create penalties. That, I think, we are all agreed upon. Then there is another thing about the bye-laws on which I should also like to say a few words. I think both your lordships and my learned friend pointed out that these bye-laws, or rather this Charter, does not contain a provision, which, I believe, is often inserted in charters at the present time and certainly in charters of this description which have come before you recently, namely, that the bye-laws shall be approved by some body and that body usually is the Privy Council itself. In some cases, some other body is substituted for special reasons, but I think it is usual for the Privy Council to approve the bye-laws, and I think it would be right that this charter should follow the precedents of other charters, and that no bye-laws should come into force unless and until approved of by the Privy Council.

Lord HOBHOUSE.—Sometimes it is the Board of Trade that approves of them.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—Sometimes; but usually I think it is one of the great Government Departments, and unless there is some reason for selecting some other department, it is usually the Privy Council, and probably your lordships will think that right. If that is so, it answers a good deal of my learned friend's argument. My learned friend has directed a large portion of his argument to the question whether or not three years is necessary for the qualification, and I cannot help thinking that my learned friend has been a little hard upon us, and has been a little inconsistent, because on the one hand he has endeavoured to show that incompetent persons get on to our register, and has made complaint against us that there are persons on our register who have not had the three years' training, whilst on the other hand he has made complaint against us that by fixing the three years' training qualification for persons to be on the register we exclude from it persons who enjoy the confidence of their training schools and hospitals as Nurses; who are, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge competent Nurses, but who still would not be able to satisfy the minimum qualification of our register. My lords, you will at once observe that that qualification in the first place is not contained in the charter. It is a matter to be dealt with in the bye-laws. My clients have adopted in the regulations of their unincorporated body the three years' qualification adopted by the report of the House of Lords Committee. Of course the report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords has no binding effect. It is nothing more than the opinion of a number of competent gentlemen expressed after hearing the evidence which they had called, but still it is the opinion of a number of gentlemen who were competent to form an opinion after having themselves investigated the whole matter and received evidence, and of the result of which, at any rate, no complaint can be made. And, therefore, it is my lords, that my clients in their regulations have adopted the three years' training as the average training which would be required to entitle a Nurse to be called a trained Nurse. Of course my learned friend is doubtless correct in saying there are people who in a year's, or even six months' training—who have a genius for nursing and who in a year or six months are better than other persons would be in ten years. So it is perhaps true that there are gentlemen who after six months' study will be better doctors than some of us would be after a lifetime's study, and there are gentlemen who would be better lawyers after a year's training than some people would be if they studied law the whole of their natural lives. Of course there are, and of course there are ladies who after a very brief period of training will prove to be better Nurses than some ladies who have

undergone a long period of training. I wish again to point out that this register will not be a compulsory register, and the hospitals who have such large opportunities of recommending persons in the case of a lady who has not undergone three years' training will be able to say, "this young lady is a perfectly competent, and a perfectly skilled nurse; it is fair to say she has only been with us a certain time, but we have no hesitation in recommending her notwithstanding that." Of course, if your lordships think that that particular bye-law is objectionable, is putting the standard too high, it will be competent for your lordships' to alter it. But at present, the only thing approaching—I won't say judicial—but the only thing approaching an authoritative or binding resolution upon the point, is the report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords. Then my learned friend said that our Red Book is accurate. My lords, I am far from saying it is perfect. I do not say it is perfect, but I may, perhaps, be permitted to say to my learned friend's clients through him, that it would be more perfect if they would give us their aid and information. If they would promise to supply us with the information, it would greatly facilitate matters. I am glad to say that King's College, one of our strongest opponents does courteously answer our letters at all events, and does give us such information, and I have no doubt, all the information they possess. If other training schools followed the same example, it would very likely conduce to the improvement of the register. Now my learned friend quoted certain instances, but they seemed to me not to support his argument or to strengthen his case. He took an example of the case of a lady at Guy's Hospital, and he said the information only disclosed that she had been there for eighteen months from 1872 to 1873. He says she was in that institution for a certain time, but then he went on to say that it did not show the exact time in which the lady was at Guy's Hospital. I am very sorry for it, but my learned friend must surely know that in the limits of a register of this kind it would be impossible to give every possible information. But it does direct those who require the services of this particular lady to the institution where they can learn more about her than they can get from the register. Then my learned friend says that upwards of six hundred of the nurses on our register have no hospital qualification. Well, my lords, that of course depends upon what my learned friend means by hospital qualification. Some of the institutions, he said, he would not consider were such as to give a hospital training, but that of course was a question of words. I am instructed that the statement as it stands is quite inaccurate. At any rate, whatever it does, our register contains no recommendation. It does not tell people that they are trained nurses when they are merely probationers, and it does not advertise to the world people who send or profess to send out trained nurses at short notice, and then send out probationers who have never been out before. But at any rate it tells the public fairly when and at what time, and, so far as can be done in a condensed form of that kind, during what year the nurse in question was at the institution where she was trained, and all the institutions she was at. I am told by the gentleman who instructs me that his attention was not directed to this matter until my learned friend stated the figures from his instructions, and he also tells me that my learned friend has greatly exaggerated the number. Probably the result of that would be that some of the cases in which he would consider there was no hospital qualification, other people consider that there was one. But, my lords, my learned friend forgot this passage in the preface, which tells you that during a certain time and up to a certain period,

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