

Chairman. He finally appealed to the Quarterly Court of Governors, who "unanimously approved the action of the House Committee." (Q. 5,755.) All attempt to secure a hearing having been thus futile, the matter was perforce allowed to drop. But Miss HOMERSHAM brought the whole story before the Lords' Committee. But it must be noted that the Chairman's "inquiry" was only made of the Matron. *To attempt to obtain 13 guineas in order to permit a lady to visit her father's death-bed may perhaps be "in strict accordance with the wishes of the Committee"*—far be it from us to deny the accuracy of the Chairman in this particular—but we have failed to discover any Bye-Law which inculcates any such procedure.

But what is the net result of these commercial proceedings? Last year the receipts from paying Probationers amounted to £1,800. As we have shown, the Private Nurses and Probationers were made to produce a *net* profit of £1,200. So that the Nursing department, altogether, last year brought in considerably more than £3,000.

There arises from this another question to which the public will require a straightforward answer. The Committee asserts that the Matron receives no commission of any kind on the amount wrung out of the public and the Probationers. The Matron stated (Q. 6,321) as to her salary: "Now, I get £250 as Matron of the Hospital, and this last quarter it came to £100 as superintendent of the Private Nursing Institution." Then, again (Q. 6,325): "It was in 1887, I think, that I had the first £50, or the beginning of the salary of £50, for the Private Nursing Department." The Secretary stated that the Matron's salary amounted to £350 (Q. 8,573). A puzzled public will ask, with whom lies the truth? The Committee practically say there is no salary attached to the Private Nursing Institution. There certainly ought not to be, and at no other Hospital within our knowledge does the Matron receive any such additional payment for duties which other officials perform (Q. 7,919). The Matron says that in 1887 she had an additional salary of £50; the Secretary asserts that it is now £100; what the Matron means we are quite unable to understand. In any case it is worthy of note that the Matron's salary in 1880 commenced at £150 a year and without an assistant; that now she has four assistants, who cost the Hospital probably £400 a year—and who, nevertheless, have no standing orders as officials of the Hospital (Q. 6,336); and that her salary is double that of the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's and Guy's Hospitals—both much richer institutions, and equally responsible posts.

IV.—THE SICK NURSES IN THE HOSPITAL ARE NEGLECTED.

This has been, as far as possible, kept in the background. Formerly the tale was very different, and the Hospital has hitherto been living on its past credit. But now the reason is not far to seek. The small number of well-trained, and even regular workers; the continual drafting out of the best of this small number to make money for the Hospital as Private Nurses; and then, on the other hand, the constant and extreme overcrowding of the wards, all combine to make it impossible for the patients to receive the attention and care which might, under better conditions, be bestowed upon them. Many isolated statements emphasise this. The startling fact, for example (Q. 5,780), that a Nurse was ordered to go on duty, although she complained of feeling ill, and then when in the ward amongst the patients was discovered to be suffering from scarlet fever, speaks volumes as to the neglect of the Nurses' health, as well as of those of the patients.

Very similar is the case of Miss Lawson (Q. 5,489, 5,671-73), a Probationer who was ill, and was sent away to a country rectory, full of children. When she arrived, a Doctor was called in, and found that she was suffering from scarlet fever. Once more, could more neglect of the public safety be exhibited? What their employee was suffering from was a matter apparently of as perfect indifference to the authorities, as the danger which they permitted her to carry far and wide into the community. Another Probationer, Miss Powell (Q. 5,668), was convalescent after an illness. The Matron of the London Hospital strongly disapproves of Nurses having a convalescent home of their own (Q. 8,125). No one will be surprised to find that she considers that "it is not desirable for them to talk over Hospital matters and meet other Nurses." Exactly. She thinks they are "better off to be with other patients than with fellow-Nurses." Exactly. She has "no difficulty whatever in getting her Nurses when they need a rest invited to stay with ladies and different people in the country." Miss Powell was sent to one of these "ladies or different people," and on her arrival was found to have a temperature of 103 degs. and be seriously ill. The witness needlessly added that this "brought discredit on" the Hospital (Q. 5,668). We venture to believe that when "ladies and different people in the country"—we do not presume to understand or explain the meaning of the phrase—discover how the London Hospital repays their kindness, the "ladies and different people" will feel inclined to support a Convalescent Home for Nurses rather than offer to take in such visitors as the London Hospital will send to them.

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