

take. Nurses have recognised in the Register the first attempt which has ever been made to purify the ranks of their calling from the hundreds of workers who now bring discredit on them and danger to the sick. Institutions which, like the London Hospital, make large profits by deceiving the sick, by sending out inexperienced pupils as Private Nurses, paying their *employées* a microscopic wage on pretence that they are being taught their profession, and yet making the public pay for their services the ordinary charges for "thoroughly-trained Nurses," have recognised in the Register of Trained Nurses—on the pages of which the names of their untrained workers would naturally not appear—the death-blow of their profitable proceedings. Small wonder, then, that while the consummation of Registration has excited interest in, and brought support to, the Association from Medical men and Nurses, it has aroused the fear and hatred of all who have hitherto preyed on the public with pecuniary success and perfect impunity. Our readers are aware of the great results achieved by the Association in other matters, and of all that it has done directly and indirectly for Nurses. To our mind, one of the most striking proofs of its success is the fact, which we hear on good authority, that in the three years of its existence it has accumulated from its small subscriptions a reserve fund of no less than £1,200.

But many of our readers are unable to understand why the Association has applied to the Board of Trade for a "licence." The reasons for the step appear to be these. The managers of the Association had reason to believe that various sums of money would be entrusted to the management of the Association if it were a corporate body, and they therefore decided to seek incorporation in the most simple manner provided for by law—registration of the Association, as a limited liability company, at Somerset House. Had this, however, been done in the ordinary manner, the word "Limited" would have been added to the name of the Association. It would then have ranked as an ordinary trading concern, to which, being a purely professional body, its Committee naturally objected. But a further difficulty arose, because under the ordinary provisions of the Companies' Acts it would have been possible for a number of the members, by certain legal proceedings, to have compelled the winding-up of the Association, and the division of all its property amongst the members. With such a possibility,

it is plain that no one would have entrusted the control of trust funds to the Association. The law, however, has provided for such cases by enacting that where a company will undertake to divide no monies amongst its members, it may be registered under the ordinary provisions of the Companies' Acts, but without the addition of the word Limited to its name. The mere omission of this word, therefore, testifies to intending benefactors that any donation which they give to the Society is safe, can only be used for the purposes of the Society, and cannot be absorbed in any other manner. To obtain the omission of the word Limited, a special licence or permission is necessary from the Board of Trade, and this has hitherto been frequently granted as a matter of course. It has been said that the Association might legally secure monies by these being invested and administered as trust funds. But the reply is very simple. The Executive Committee is an elected and annually changing body. Trust funds must be vested in the names of settled trustees. Consequently the Association, that is to say, the Committee, could not undertake the management of funds, the complete control of which would be placed in the hands of some two or three gentlemen quite independent of the Committee. In short, the only course open to the Association was to apply for a licence of the Board of Trade to be incorporated without the word Limited.

The action of the Board of Trade has been most strange, and has aroused throughout the Medical and Nursing profession the gravest astonishment. It is notorious in professional circles how the Association has been opposed by a small number of Hospitals, and why. These Institutions, in the desperate hope of hampering the Association in its work, seized the opportunity and petitioned the Board of Trade not to grant the simple request of the Association. Carefully avoiding any reference to the reason for which alone incorporation was needed, the opponents dragged in the work of Registration of Nurses, which is of course absolutely irrelevant to the question at issue. Hospitals all over the country were implored to sign petitions to the Board of Trade, and in the result sixteen—most of them small—Institutions did so, including the house where the sick boys in Dr. Barnardo's Homes are isolated. To swell the meagre lists a Board of Guardians and a few small Nursing Institutions were added. And of course the little Midwives' Institute and the smaller Hospitals' Asso-

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