

7. The opposition to the grant of the said Charter is directed mainly to the first of such purposes, namely, the maintenance of a list or register of Nurses, and is based partly on reasons derived from a consideration of the nature of a Nurse's calling, the qualifications required for it, and the history and present condition of Nurse training, partly on the character and constitution of the Association, and partly on the machinery by which its objects are proposed to be accomplished.

8. The systematic training of Nurses is of recent origin. Little more than 30 years ago no means of affording any such training existed. Hospital Nurses were, as a rule, women of inferior class, and without education, who, from being menial servants of the Hospital, had been promoted to the position of Nurses. Their moral tone was low, and no attempt of any kind was made to teach or improve them.

9. The earliest training schools for Nurses were established in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital and King's College Hospital. In the year 1860, Miss Florence Nightingale established, in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital, a training school for Nurses, which is still carried on under the name of the Nightingale Fund Training School for Nurses. The said training school in connection with King's College Hospital was carried on under the Society of St. John's House and Sisterhood. Every Nurse trained in such last-mentioned school was employed either in King's College Hospital or in nursing private patients.

10. The establishment of the said Nightingale Fund School was, however, the first substantial step towards the general improvement of the character and position of Nurses. Such school was established and carried on by means of a charitable endowment known as the Nightingale Fund by which the school was supported. The main object of such school was to make the hospital and school a model for other hospitals, and a source of supply to them of trained Nurses.

11. From this school numerous trained Nurses, Matrons, and Sisters, and in many cases Staffs of Nurses, have from time to time been supplied to other hospitals, and have assisted in establishing therein Nurse training systems similar to that adopted in St. Thomas's Hospital and the said Nightingale Fund School.

12. Nurse training schools have also from time to time been independently established in connection with many others of the large London and provincial hospitals. These have, for the most part, been modelled upon the plan adopted by Miss Nightingale. Thus, gradually, and by slow degrees, all, or nearly all, the large hospitals, and some parochial infirmaries, have come to have attached to them Nurse training schools more or less resembling in organisation and system the Nightingale Fund School. Most of these schools have been established within the last 16 years, and many of them within a much more recent period. The Nurses trained in the said schools find employment either in the service of hospitals, or as private or district Nurses.

13. In the efforts thus made for the improvement of Nursing the primary aim has been to raise the character of the Nurses, and to cultivate and protect their moral qualities, and then to provide such means of practical and scientific teaching as might enable them intelligently to obey the orders of the medical men. To accomplish these objects the first essential condition was to make the hospital itself a home where young women of good character could live and be trained, as for instance, by improving the diet and accommodation provided for them,

by shortening their hours of labour, and by placing them under the supervision and discipline of educated Matrons, and the second essential point was to exercise scrupulous care in the selection of the Nurses themselves, with the view of securing persons of sound constitution, and possessing such qualities as gentleness, tact, presence of mind, and the other personal and moral characteristics, without which no training can produce a good Nurse. At the same time a methodical system of practical and technical training in the hospital wards by the Head Nurses and specially appointed members of the Medical Staff was organised. It has, however, been mainly from efficiency in the measures adopted to insure the possession of and cultivate the necessary moral qualities that successful results have been obtained.

14. In the Nightingale Fund School and the other schools referred to in paragraphs 11 and 12 hereof, the period of the Nurse's formal connection with the training school comprises (1) a probationary period of not less than a year, of which the first month or thereabouts is a period of trial, and (2) a period of two or three years, during which the Nurse is engaged under the direction or with the consent of the training school, either in the wards of the hospital or in private nursing or otherwise. During the period of probation the progress of each Nurse is (as regards her technical knowledge) from time to time tested by examination, and full reports as to her character, qualification, and efficiency are regularly furnished to the Matron by the sisters of the wards in which the Nurse is employed, and such reports are recorded by the Matron in the register of the training school. In such register are also inserted full details of the work and engagements of each Nurse during the further period of her connection with the school, together with records of reports and testimonials received in respect of her from persons in whose service she has been engaged, and such other particulars as may be thought desirable. The general management of the training school is usually placed in the hands of a Committee of the Governors of the Hospital. In a few cases the school is independent, and works under contract with the hospital.

15. The said training schools are also able to, and to a certain extent do, keep in touch with the best of their Nurses after their formal connection with the school has ceased, and the subsequent information thus obtained is also recorded or preserved. It is the practice of most, but not all, of the training schools to grant a certificate to each Nurse who satisfactorily completes the prescribed course.

16. The registers thus kept by the training schools, are private registers, to which no one except persons connected with the training school has access, but all requisite information as to the training and qualification of a Nurse is supplied on application to the school by any member of the public or by any medical man desiring to engage her. In many cases the information thus supplied is complete up to the date of application. In cases in which it is not so complete it can and should be supplemented by testimonials of character from the persons or institutions by whom the Nurse has since been engaged. Moreover, many of the said hospitals have institutions for the supply of private Nurses attached to them. Such Nurses are thoroughly in touch with the authorities of the training school, and with practice in the hospital wards, and the said institutions are thereby enabled to supply or recommend Nurses suited to the requirements of the

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