

in the register relating to herself under the seal of the Association.

36. It is humbly submitted that the facts hereinbefore stated show that the object of the Association has throughout been to establish an authoritative register by which the skill and competence of a Nurse may be certified to the public, and that, in preparing "The Register of Trained Nurses for 1891" and "The Register of Trained Nurses for 1892," the Association has professed to undertake the duty of investigating the credentials of applicants for registration, and of refusing to register those not possessing, in the judgment of the Registration Board, the requisite qualification.

37.—It is submitted that the establishment of any general register is not adapted to the calling of Nurses for the sick, because (among other reasons) it could not disclose nor could any registering authority adequately test the existence of the personal and moral characteristics referred to in paragraph 13 hereof, and also because, having regard to (among other things) the facts stated in paragraphs 15, 18, 19, and 20 hereof, it could not fail to be untrustworthy and misleading to the persons relying on it. At the same time, by reason of the fact that the register would inevitably contain the names of numbers of insufficiently trained nurses side by side with, and (in the eyes of the public) on the same footing as, their highly trained and thoroughly competent sisters, an injury would be inflicted on the best trained and most competent Nurses, the general standard of Nursing would be lowered, and there would be great danger that the incentives to advancement and improvement which at present exist would be seriously injured. The untrustworthiness of the register would, it is submitted, be increased by the extreme difficulty of adequately carrying out any periodical revision thereof (the necessity for which is, in the case of Nurses, owing to their liability to deterioration through want of practice or otherwise, imperative), and of removing the name of any person therefrom, except in cases of gross misconduct. It is also submitted that there is no analogy between the cases of Medical Men and Nurses, and that the arguments in favour of a register of medical men have no application to Nurses.

38. By the draft charter the membership of the Corporation is proposed to be confined to existing members of the Association, and to medical men and nurses to be subsequently elected, but in the case of Nurses subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the bye-laws, with power to provide by bye-laws for the admission of honorary members. The government of the Corporation is proposed to be vested in a general council, which is to have power to expel and suspend members of the Corporation, and is to elect an executive committee. To the executive committee is to be entrusted the election, in such manner as may be described by the bye-laws, of future members of the Corporation. It is also to have power to appoint sub-committees, and delegate any of its duties. It is provided that the first general council and executive committee shall consist of the existing general council and executive committee of the Association, and that they shall subsequently be composed of such ex-officio and elected members holding office for such term as may be prescribed by the bye-laws. And full power to enact bye-laws is vested in the members of the Corporation in general meeting.

39. The draft Charter contains no reference to midwives. It further differs from the draft Charter of 1889, in making no such provision as was therein contained as

to the character of the list or register of Nurses which is proposed to be established, or as to the machinery by which the same is intended to be carried on.

40. It is humbly submitted that if the Charter now sought to be obtained were granted, it would be within the power of the Corporation, by means of its bye-laws, to form and control a register of trained Nurses similar in character to, and carried on by means of similar machinery to, that which was expressly provided for by the draft Charter of 1889.

41. If the Association should propose to confine itself to the compilation of a mere directory of Nurses, undertaking no responsibility as to the competence of the persons registered, it is humbly submitted that a Charter is not required for and will not assist the attainment of this object.

42. It is believed that a register of trained Nurses, professing to be an authoritative register by which the skill and competence of a Nurse should be certified, and put forward under the authority of a chartered corporation, would come to be regarded and used by the public, and by medical men, as an authoritative guide in the selection of Nurses, and that registration therein would come to be generally accepted as a sufficient and conclusive guarantee of competence. It is further believed that, inasmuch as the public have no means of estimating the relative value of the certificates granted by different hospitals, or even of knowing that such differences in the value thereof as are mentioned in paragraphs 18, 19, and 20, hereof exist, no reservation (such as is mentioned in paragraph 34 hereof as being made by the existing Registration Board of the Association) as regards responsibility for the character of the training in respect of which a hospital certificate is granted would substantially lessen the reliance which would be placed upon the register. On the other hand, it is humbly submitted that such reservation would seriously impair its value.

43. The formation and maintenance of any such register as above mentioned would, it is submitted, involve in the case of applicants not possessing or unable to produce a hospital certificate, the whole duty of sifting the alleged qualifications for registration, and in other cases the duty (at least) of ascertaining the genuineness of the certificate produced, and of investigating the subsequent history of the applicant. In forming its judgment upon these matters, the Corporation (should it be established) would either be (like the existing Registration Board of the Association) wholly dependent on information supplied by the applicant, and such independent information as (without compulsory powers) it might be able to obtain, or, while still remaining partially dependent on such information, would be compelled to impose (as was in fact, contemplated by the draft Charter of 1889), an additional test by means of an examination established and conducted by itself.

44. It is humbly submitted that, inasmuch as the qualification of a Nurse depends far more on the possession of the personal and moral characteristics mentioned in paragraph 13 hereof than upon technical knowledge, no mere examination of a Nurse could be made to furnish an adequate test of her efficiency. It would, moreover, be essential that such examination should be carried on, partially, at all events, in hospital wards.

45. Under the circumstances above set forth it is submitted that even were it possible (which it is submitted it is not) to establish and maintain a Register of Nurses which should be a trustworthy guide to the public and not prejudicial to the interests of Nursing, such object

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