

52. It is submitted also that, having regard to the facts stated in paragraphs 14, 15, and 16 hereof, the establishment of a general register of nurses is unnecessary, and that it is to the more general establishment and further development of institutions for the supply of private nurses attached to hospitals that the public should look for a supply of such nurses and for protection from incompetent nurses.

53. All the other purposes stated in the draft Charter, however desirable and beneficial, can, it is submitted, be effectually accomplished without the grant of a Royal Charter.

54. It is accordingly submitted that the prayer of the said Petition for the grant of a Charter for the incorporation of the Association should not be granted for the following (among other)

#### REASONS.

1. That a general register is not adapted to the calling of nurses for the sick, and that any possible register of Nurses would be misleading to the public, and detrimental to the interests of nursing.
2. That the proposed register of Nurses is in no way analogous to the existing register of medical men, and that the arguments in support of the latter do not apply to the former.
3. That a register of Nurses could not be effectually carried on except under statutory powers.
4. That any attempt to maintain such a register under the authority or a Charter would lead to mischievous results.
5. That the grant of a Charter would enable the Royal British Nurses' Association to acquire a real if indirect power of controlling the education of the whole nursing profession.
6. That the Royal British Nurses' Association is not a sufficiently representative body, and that it has not secured sufficient support or achieved sufficient

success to entitle it to be entrusted with such powers.

7. That it has not the means of discharging the duties and responsibilities which the Charter would impose upon it.
8. That the establishment at the present time of any register of Nurses would be premature and injurious.
9. That a general register of Nurses is unnecessary.
10. That the other objects for which incorporation is sought can be accomplished without the grant of a Royal Charter.

R. B. FINLAY.  
L. S. BRISTOWE.

### Letters to the Editor.

#### To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—What strikes me in reading nearly every argument put forth by the opponents of the R. B. N. A. is the state of semi-degradation in which they would keep Nurses. One might almost define the present struggle as between a system of hirelings and the advocates of intelligent self-help. Again it comes out in a more repulsive form in Miss Philippa Hicks's reported interview. The hirelings may not only be exploited for the benefit of the Institutions they serve, but they need to be kept in the path of rectitude by the fear of the representative of those Institutions. The woman is, indeed, in a perilous case whose "salvation" in "a critical moment" hangs on feelings of what is politic for her well-being. But given the character governed only by such consideration; which is the more far-reaching stimulus? the fear of losing the good opinion of an employer of labour, or that of the censure of public opinion when individual names are known; and may be held up before a professional Association as unworthy?—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

M. SAW.

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