

but to those engaged in the exercise of medicine and surgery I appeal, both to those around me, and to the whole profession, whether they have not made the practice of medicine and surgery more attractive and thrown a charm over our work?

"In spite of the rapid strides surgery has made, I am conscious of a sense almost of shame, that the good nursing of the present is the result not so much of acknowledgment and sympathy. But he who watches his case most closely will be able to prove most fully how much it owes to good nursing. The spirit which arouses in nurses a proud enthusiasm in their work is, added to their care, I need not say, of immeasurable advantage to the patient. It must be said there has been a gradual change in our relation to our art. Less dependence is placed on drugs, and we find in a measure of surgery and skilful nursing, physic for many diseases. We have awakened gradually to the influence of the care and skill which the very best nursing can supply. Now that the number of well-educated nurses is so considerable, and is day by day increasing so rapidly with respect to energy and usefulness, if such an association as this just proposed can be set on foot, it is easy to see that a great advantage will be secured, not only to nurses and the profession, but also to the public at large. In the first place a system of registration by a legally authorised body will secure a guarantee to all that those who appear on the register are qualified to take charge of cases. No question could be raised as to the fitness or worthiness of those appointed. Moreover, such an association would undoubtedly be able to do much to improve the art of nursing by an increase of skill and science. The association, by judicious distinction, will be able to do much to encourage excellence. And then it must be remembered that nurses are not immortal or removed from the infirmities which beset us all. And there will be a fund for the support of members in age and sickness. No class can have stronger claims on all of us than the women who have devoted their lives to those under their care. I say that the ladies who belong to the profession of nursing and those interested must combine. Union is strength. Good will result not only to them and us, but also to the public, who ought to be deeply interested in the success of the new scheme. As in the church, the law, and medicine, security is given to the public that members are in some degree qualified, so in the case of nurses the public should look for such evidence as this association will be able to offer. God speed this association! May it succeed as it deserves to do! I cannot sit down without offering to these ladies and others our warmest thanks for their assistance in our work. You are necessary to us. The practice of medicine and surgery cannot be carried on without your services. Yet your help would be very different if you were in combination. Imagine the loyal and

devoted work you might give. It is not overlooked, nor shall it be forgotten. It is recognised where you value recognition most. The Queen by her recent gift expresses her sympathy with your work. And to all these women amongst us to-day to do her work her royal daughter bids you all be of good cheer."

Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, who rose to propose the first resolution, said:

"The task of moving the first resolution is one I take up with very great pleasure. The position has been given me because I have taken an active part in the instruction of nurses. In the speech we have just heard, every argument has been driven home with force. It strikes me that such a meeting as we have is very strong evidence that the whole body of nurses and those interested are not satisfied with things as they are to-day; and therefore it is intended that something should be done to put women in a better position themselves, and benefit the public. I will read the resolution entrusted to me: 'That this meeting, desiring to express its cordial sympathy with the British Nurses' Association, pledges itself to support the Association by every means in its power, and urges upon the nurses in the United Kingdom who are eligible for membership that they should join the Association, for the sake of the advancement of their profession.' The terms of this enable me to say, that the projected association of nurses is an institution for the benefit of the public, as well as for the nurses themselves. Mr. Savory has already told you what benefit the public will derive from association. At the present day the position of a trained nurse is not understood by the general public—in fact, it would be difficult to give a definition of a trained nurse. That difficulty will no longer exist in association. The term as applied to ladies means different methods and degrees of training and education, and it would be one of the duties of this association to lay down conditions of education, and so testify to the public what is meant by a trained nurse. For instance, some institutions admit ladies, to be trained for one year, and then cast them adrift, and certify that they are fit to act as nurses. Others consider two years sufficient time to train a nurse; and yet others, three years. In the future, three years will be the curriculum. How many of the general public are there who understand training? When a woman comes forward and offers herself at twenty-three—not before—she willingly seeks to give up three of the best years of her life. During these months she knows she will have small holiday, long hours, much weariness—in fact, training in the branches of hospital work; that she will have to attend several courses of lectures, and in time be put in responsible posts, and at the end of her work submit herself to two or three severe examinations. At the end of that time, if she pass,

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