

Medical profession. As a first step towards this, it was resolved that a Royal Charter should be sought to incorporate the Association upon an unalterable basis, and also to authorise the formation of a legal Register of Trained Nurses. It was determined that for twelve months, as a matter of mere justice to the thousands of estimable and skilful Nurses who commenced to work before Training Schools and certificates were established, the Association should admit to the benefits of its membership women who had worked for three years or more in constant attendance upon the sick, provided that, if they possessed no certificate, the fullest proofs should be given, by personal or written testimonials, of their professional competence and their personal character. We understand that the Members are elected by the Executive Committee, which comprises many well-known Medical men and Hospital Matrons, after most careful scrutiny of their qualifications in these particulars, and that, as a matter of fact, very few Nurses have been admitted who do not possess some well-recognised certificate of training. It is easy to imagine, however, what vials of wrath would have been poured over the Association if it had decided at once to exclude from its Membership all those who from age or poverty had never had the opportunity of passing through a Training School. It is evidence of the straits to which the opponents of the Association are driven to find arguments against it, that they should accuse it of attempting to bring all Nurses to one inferior level, because it has admitted a few uncertificated Nurses as Members at the commencement of its career. We are informed that now, after less than eighteen months' existence, the Association has enrolled two thousand five hundred Nurses, including the Matrons of half the large Hospitals in England, besides a large number of influential Medical men in all parts of the country; that branches are being formed in the colonies; and that leading Nurses in the United States have adopted its constitution as a model whereon they hope to found a similar organisation for American Nurses. It is needless to add that the Association has been unprecedentedly successful.

"The views held by the Association upon the question of the legal Registration of Nurses may be thus succinctly stated:—

"(1) There is at present no means of preventing any woman, however ignorant of the duties or responsibilities of Nursing she may be, from proclaiming herself to be a Trained Nurse and obtaining employment as such, to the discomfort, if not the danger, of the patient, and to the frustration of the best efforts and the probable discredit of the Medical attendant.

"(2) There is at present no check against any

certificated Nurse who may prove herself unworthy of trust, or has been even convicted of crime, from continuing to obtain employment upon her certificate of professional knowledge.

"To remedy these undoubted evils, the scheme which is proposed by the Association is simply as follows:—

"(1) That a Royal Charter should be obtained, authorising the formation of a Register for Nurses under the control of an influential Registration Board of Medical men and Hospital Matrons.

"(2) That upon this Register should be entered the names only of those who hold certificates of efficiency, their addresses, the date of their Registration, and the name of the Nurses' Training School which granted the certificate.

"There is, therefore, not the slightest intention, it appears, of interference with these authorities, as the opponents of the Association are never tired of declaring. These institutions train, they examine, they certificate their pupils already. Will Dr. Sansom seriously assert that the effect of the Medical Register has been to 'level down' the different qualifications thereon enrolled to one inferior grade? If not, how can he expect that a Nurses' Register would produce such an effect upon the certificates of different Training Schools?

"(3) That from this Register should be removed the name of anyone who, after the fullest and most impartial inquiry, should be considered by the Board to have shown herself unworthy to be trusted as a Nurse. Will Dr. Sansom assert that such a measure of protection as this should not most undoubtedly be afforded, both to the public, to Medical men, and to Nurses themselves?

"(4) That the Register should be published yearly, so that the authoritative information it would contain should be readily accessible to all.

"Dr. Sansom suggests that the public might choose a Nurse from the Register without consulting the Medical attendant. Does he not see that, even were such action taken, a Nurse would be engaged who would be under professional control to an extent impossible of attainment at present? Is he not aware of the facility with which Nurses discharged for drunkenness, or disobedience, or other faults, from one institution can now obtain employment at another on the strength of some previous testimonials or a certificate of training?

"Dr. Sansom complains of our statement that those who oppose this professional scheme are in 'an altogether untenable position.' We repeat our conviction that their position cannot be defended for a moment. They are aware—or they have no excuse for their ignorance, for it is no secret—that an undertaking, founded by the same official of the Stock Exchange to whom we have previously alluded, has already obtained the

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