

such purpose unless that were done. Then the question arose, What good would a Nurse derive from Registration? Well, first of all, and not least, it would certainly add a certain amount of dignity to the Nursing profession. But, putting aside the dignity of the position, there was no doubt that Nurses would obtain better remuneration. If the profession was to be over-crowded more and more, the effect would undoubtedly be to cheapen the price of the labour given. And to secure themselves from that, there was no doubt that combination was essential; combination for legitimate purposes—viz., that proper remuneration should be secured, and that no incompetent person should trade upon the name of "Nurse." Then the other advantages which had been shadowed forth were extremely great. He hoped the Nurses would join the Association in sufficient numbers to enable them to arrange a sick fund, an annuity fund, a house of rest for Nurses after their hard work—not only when they were sick, but when they took their annual holidays. There was just one question he should like to ask, which had been partly asked before; but it was this—he could not help feeling himself, that when any Nurse had had three years' experience, whether inside a hospital or outside of it, she had a certain vested interest, and he thought that the public would insist that, before any Charter was given, that vested interest should have consideration. There were plenty of Nurses in workhouses and other institutions, who should not be debarred from calling themselves "Nurses" simply because they had not had a complete and thorough training. He had heard it suggested that the General Medical Council should become the governing body for the Registration of Nurses. Against that he should strongly protest. That Council had got more than they could do already, and, therefore, he thought it would be a great misfortune if this matter should be committed into their hands.

Dr. CROOK said that before Miss Wood answered the questions which had been put, there was one point upon which some stress had been laid, and upon which he should like to say a few words. It was with respect to the examination of Nurses. Of course, if this Association aspired to obtain a Royal Charter, and imposed, as one of its conditions, at least three years' training upon Nurses, then surely that ought to be, as it were, stamped by some official examination. Now, he should like to know whether the examination would be held at each individual hospital; whether the examination papers would be set by each individual centre, or whether they would come from some central council, and be sent down from thence for the examination to be conducted at the different local hospitals? He thought that was an important question, because, if this was to be a one portal system for Nurses, he thought the examination ought to come from a

central council. In that way the Nurses would have many advantages over the members of the medical profession.

Miss WOOD, after some remarks upon the financial aspect of the question, special Registration for special bodies of Nurses, &c., said the question had been put as to whether this work of Registration should be undertaken by the Medical Council. She could speak with certainty about that. It had been distinctly told them by a great authority, that they certainly must not ask the Council to undertake that work, because it had more than enough to do already. But they had the fullest assurance that, if the Association undertook it themselves, they should have the sympathy and help of the Medical Council to facilitate the movement for the registration of Nurses. The question of the length of training necessary for Nurses, before presenting themselves for Registration, was one which she intended putting to the Nurses themselves later on. The word "training" was used in different hospitals, with various meanings. They could not, at present, therefore, lay down any hard and fast rule as to how long, in various hospitals, a Nurse should be in training. The question, they hoped, would answer itself before long; but the feeling of the Association was, that three years was necessary for the training of a Nurse, to make her work good all round, and to fit her to practise as a private Nurse, who must necessarily be obliged, often, to act on her own responsibility, and her own judgment. In some hospitals, they even considered that one year's training was sufficient. But what the Association did feel to be important was, that however long or short a time a Nurse was in "training," she certainly should not be allowed to work, apart from supervision, under three years of Nursing experience. She now desired to put the following questions to the meeting:—(1) Was it the opinion of those present that the time had come for the legal registration of Nurses, under a Royal Charter? This was put as a resolution, and was carried unanimously. (2.) Was it the opinion of the Nurses, that it was better that their right to be called "Nurses," should be decided in the hospital in which they were trained, or by some independent body? They must remember the great diversity of opinion which existed in different hospitals, as to the length of time a Nurse should be in training. It might be said to a Nurse, "Oh, you are not properly trained, because you have not come from our hospital." Nurses had said to her, that they could not see how it was, that Nurses who were sent out for their work from hospitals, which required only one year's training, should be put on the same footing as others, who were not allowed to go out from the hospital under three years.

Dr. MALINS said that he should be glad if Miss WOOD would repeat her question. This being complied with, he said he thought a little further explanation was ne-

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