

harm to all sides than to undertake such a course. But by organised action, the Association hoped to be able to raise the general standard of knowledge in the whole profession, to make the Nurses of the future more useful to Doctors and to the public than they are even now, and above all to help Nurses to help each other effectually in times of necessity.

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DR. BEDFORD FENWICK was called upon by the Chairman to second the resolution, and said that he did so both as a great pleasure, and as a duty which was incumbent on him as a Medical man. He pointed out the intense importance of this matter to every man, woman, and child in the kingdom, for at any moment any one of them might require the assistance of a Trained Nurse. He showed that the effect of Registration would not only be to provide the public with the knowledge of who was, and who was not a skilled attendant on the sick, but must inevitably tend to improve the teaching which would be given, and the knowledge, therefore, which would be acquired by Nurses in future, because the Nursing Schools would have then to so train their pupils that they should all be able to pass examinations necessary to ensure Registration. Now, when each Hospital worked as seemed best in its own eyes, it gave its Nurses as much, or as little training as it chose.

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A DOCTOR was as powerless to distinguish a Trained from an untrained, a trustworthy from an unreliable Nurse, at first sight, as any member of the public. He could not sit down and catechise a new Nurse, sent to tend a serious case, as to her experience, her knowledge, or her character. He had to take her on trust that she was what she and the Institution which supplied her represented her to be. So it came to pass that many leading Medical men were supporting this Registration scheme, because they knew how much anxiety and trouble such a State guarantee of a Nurse's efficiency would save them. After explaining several matters connected with the scheme, which I need not here insert, as my readers are well acquainted with them, I see from the report of the Meeting that Dr. Bedford Fenwick proceeded to answer the questions which the Chairman had asked at the commencement of the proceedings.

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HE said that he thought he had proved that Registration would secure a greater efficiency in Nursing, but, as to economy, he would not attempt to forecast its effects. He thought, however, that it was unusual to get a first-class article in this world without paying a good price for it, and

if the public could get a better Nurse, he thought that some slight increase in her cost would not be objected to. It appeared, however, to him to be probable that the increase of status which Registration would confer would lead many more to adopt the profession than even now attempted to enter it. And, as in all other matters, the balance between supply and demand would assuredly regulate the market value of Nursing. If there were more Nurses than the public wanted, prices would fall, of course. If the sick needed more Nurses than could be found to attend them, then undoubtedly they could demand more remuneration for their work.

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WITH reference to the necessity for a Royal Charter, Dr. Bedford Fenwick said that the matter had been most carefully discussed, and for many reasons it had been decided that Registration would be valueless unless conducted under the fullest legal powers. It would be no use to the Nurse or to the public unless it was carried on by State authority. But the great reason was, that the Nursing Register would be merely a delusion and a snare unless it was kept constantly corrected and purified, and that could not be done without the assistance of the ordinary law. For example, if a thoroughly Trained Nurse was Registered, and afterwards so misconducted herself in any way as to be unworthy of trust, her name undoubtedly should be struck off the Register at once. If the Register was not a State-ordained affair, but only a private enterprise, it was certain that either endless litigation would be caused, or else the Register would continue, year after year, to hold the names of women notoriously unfit to practise the calling of a Nurse. Power to cleanse the Register if needful was, therefore, essential, and this could only be conferred by an Act of Parliament or a Royal Charter.

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THE CHAIRMAN remarked that he quite saw the necessity for the action the Association proposed to take, but asked those who objected to the scheme to state their views on the matter. SURGEON-GENERAL GORDON said he had listened with the greatest interest to the addresses which had been given, and strongly agreed with the arguments which had been advanced. He wished to know whether male Nurses might not be enrolled in the Association, and be Registered by the Charter, as he was the Chairman of a Society which had a good deal to do with these workers. DR. BEDFORD FENWICK replied that it had been decided to enrol male Nurses as Members of the Association at the last meeting of the General Council, and also to open a separate Register for them. (Applause.) Mr. OWEN said that Meet-

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