

of a check on Nurses is already recognised in that department of the public service with which I am connected, for the name of every Nurse who is dismissed for any serious fault from any Lunatic Hospital has to be sent up to the Commissioners of Lunacy in London, who keep a black list which has to be consulted. Nurses often are permitted to resign to avoid dismissal because of faults, and then, of course, no record is kept. At present, general Nurses may go on plying their vocation with impunity after they have been convicted of serious offences, and when they are entirely ignorant of the rudiments of their profession. We all know the futility and weakness of some testimonials, and yet at this moment there is not in this country any authoritative list that can be searched, and from which it can be ascertained whether any particular Nurse has been properly trained, and whether she is expert in her calling. In the case of Plumbers, who look after our domestic appliances, it has been found expedient to establish a system of Registration, and I notice in the present session of Parliament a Bill has been introduced for the Registration of Architects and Surveyors. Is it too much to ask, then, that Nurses, whose duties are not less responsible than those of Plumbers and Architects, should have an opportunity of recording in a formal way whether they have been properly trained for their work, and that the public should have access to that record. (Cheers.) Of the ultimate success of this Association I have felt tolerably certain ever since I heard its objects and proposed organisation first explained by the Princess Christian. If I had at any time a doubt upon the subject, that has now been dispelled by certain adverse criticisms of the Association that have been sent to me. (Cheers.) No young association is absolutely safe until it is attacked. It is the storm that makes the sapling take root. I think all who are interested in this Association ought to feel very much indebted to the pamphleteers and letter writers, for, in the attempt to curse the Association, they have blessed it altogether, and by attributing to it fictitious and imaginary shortcomings, they have caused its real advantages to stand out conspicuously. If all that can be said against the Association is contained in these pamphlets and letters, then it may go on its way rejoicing. I desire to speak with the utmost respect of the authors of these pamphlets and letters. They write with authority and experience, and are, I have no doubt, actuated by the fairest motives; but they have fallen into some remarkable mistakes, and have exhausted themselves in taking objection to proceedings on the part of this Association which have never been contemplated. Dr. Sansom protests warmly

against Registration side by side with properly-trained Hospital Nurses and those who have only been trained in private. He has altogether omitted to notice that the Registration of privately-trained Nurses is only to take place during one year of grace, which, in a new departure, it is essential and fair to allow, and that after the expiration of the year, every Nurse who is placed upon the Register will be required to give evidence of an efficient Hospital Training. Miss Lückes has expended her energies in denouncing a theoretical examination which has never been contemplated. I hope that the Association when it is in full swing will take care that every Nurse, before she is placed on the Register, has passed an examination both practical and theoretical. I have understood it is the object of the Association to leave the conduct of the examinations to the Hospital and other authorities, and to exercise over the examinations merely the sort of supervision which is exercised by the General Medical Council over examinations of Medical licensing powers. This reminds me that the objections taken to this Association, or rather to the Register of this Association, are exactly those which were taken to the Medical Register when it was under discussion in the year 1858. We are told that it will produce a dead level of mediocrity. This is what was predicted of the Medical Register; but has it had this effect? Nothing of the kind. After an expiration of thirty years we are able to declare it has been most beneficial to the profession, and that it has greatly increased the position of Medical men. The same may be foretold of the Register we propose to establish. It will not produce a dead level of mediocrity. Registration is to be voluntary. Nurses are not to be brought by a policeman to have their names inserted, and there will always be after the Register is established great depths of Nurses beneath the Register, and great heights of Nurses superior to it. Those who prefer unqualified Nurses will still be able to procure them. The spurious article will still exist; all we desire is that it should be properly labelled. If the public prefer margarine to butter they are entitled to have it, but Parliament has ordained that it shall not be described as butter. So what we wish to do with our Register is to secure that, when the British public desire to obtain a highly qualified and Trained Nurse, they may be quite sure they are getting the genuine article. Then, again, this Register will not prevent Nurses who are ambitious to improve their knowledge to any extent, from studying as much as they desire. Moreover, it will not prevent Hospitals from establishing badges or distinctions, or holding any examinations they may please, or creating a

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