

persons who have been attempting to ruin the Association in order to perpetuate frauds on the sick, both rich and poor. We have no hesitation in saying that this will arouse so much public interest in and sympathy for the Association and its work, that it will reap a success for which, under ordinary circumstances, it might have had to wait for twenty years; while the obloquy which will descend on its opponents will be correspondingly great and deserved. It is stated that the first Register of Trained Nurses will be issued early in January next, so that this primary great scheme of the Association may be regarded as accomplished. For it will be now, we presume, merely a matter of carrying on the same routine work until legislative sanction be given to the system, and it becomes recognised and performed as a State affair.

So soon as Registration was gained, the Executive Committee, nearly three years ago, declared that it would proceed to carry out various large and important benevolent schemes, amongst which came first the Convalescent Home, and then the granting of aid to members when past work, or in temporary need. And no time has been lost in fulfilling the promise. It is well known that Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK last summer formed a Committee to organise a Convalescent Home and Holiday Fund, which has been so successful that a house will be opened in Brighton early next year, to which Nurses can go for longer or shorter rests, by small payments, and which, from all reports, will be greatly appreciated and frequented. Now the Association has commenced the Benevolent schemes, which deserve more than a passing comment. It appears to us that these will have an enormous effect upon the future of the Association, because we cannot but foresee that they must inevitably widen in scope and usefulness as time goes on. In fact, we perceive now the wisdom of the Association in taking up such a very decidedly professional standpoint from the first, because the direct tendency of such benevolent schemes as those now started, had they stood alone, would have necessarily been to convert the Association into a mere Benefit Society. Whereas now it must be for all future time indissolubly connected with the great subjects of Registration and education of Nurses, so that its professional prestige and influence, while re-acting upon and assisting its benevolent objects, will effectually prevent it from degenerating into a merely mercantile union.

To explain our meaning more fully, let us point out that neither the Incorporated Law Society, nor the British Medical Association—the two best examples of professional Associations in this country—give their members any pecuniary benefit of any kind. On the other

hand, such bodies as the Friends of the Clergy Corporation, and others which minister directly to the necessities of members of other special callings, are now nothing more than benefit societies, and are supported either by pure charity, or by those who expect a definite benefit for themselves in return for a certain payment to the Society. The British Nurses' Association has taken higher ground, and while welding all its members together for the first time in strictly professional union, calls upon the stronger amongst them to help the weaker, and upon the richer to help the poorer. And there can be no reasonable doubt that the public will gladly confide to the DUKE OF ST. ALBANS, the DUKE OF ABERCORN, and SIR SYDNEY WATERLOW, the Trustees of the Association, larger and larger sums as time goes on, for the benevolent purposes which it has in hand now, or may hereafter undertake. It will have been observed that the Association has provided for this already by accepting donations or annual subscriptions to its work, and by the second and third rules of the Pension Fund, which read as follows:—"A donor of £1,200 shall be entitled to name a pension of £50 per annum, which the Association will bind itself to give thereafter in perpetuity, and the donor shall, during his or her lifetime, be entitled to nominate the recipient of the pension whenever it may fall vacant." "A donor of £500 shall be entitled to name a pension of £20 per annum, with the same privileges as the foregoing." Every Member of the Association can help forward its work by bringing these rules—which we presume can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss KEGAN PAUL—to the notice of any wealthy and benevolent people with whom she may be acquainted; and as the Association now numbers nearly three thousand, scattered in every part of the world, it should have enormous opportunities of making these valuable schemes widely known. The rules of the Benevolent Fund might also well be commended to the consideration of those able and willing to help Nurses in times of temporary need. Members of not less than two years' standing are eligible to receive a grant—which, however, at present it seems cannot exceed £10—if they are "temporarily disabled by sickness from following their calling; if in need of a prolonged rest after an illness or injury due to their work; if deprived by accident, such as fire, shipwreck, &c., of their clothing or instruments; if in temporary need from circumstances beyond their control." We earnestly congratulate the Association upon the great success which it has hitherto achieved, and upon the excellent and most important departure now made, and which, we cannot doubt, will be equally successful and useful.

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