

is shown by the fact that, whereas in 1880 every patient nursed cost £1 10s., in 1890 the small sum of thirteen shillings represented the total outlay.

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SIR MORELL then pointed out that the objects of the Charity were—(1) To relieve the sick poor ; (2) To raise the standard of Nursing ; (3) To raise the social status of the Nurses. He said : " We know how the first of these objects has been effected, and with regard to the second I may remark that an Association of Nurses for the benefit of the sick poor scarcely existed until within the last few years. The founders of this Institution could hardly have anticipated the amount of good that such an Institution can carry out. For instance, a large number of diseases can be better treated, from a medical point of view, in the homes of the patients than in Hospitals. The patients can be better looked after as regards their own happiness, and the welfare of their own families ; and the attendance of Nurses in the homes of the poor tends greatly to prevent over-crowding in the Hospital Wards. In the old days those who exercised this most noble calling were absolutely without one single qualification to entitle them to perform the most delicate duties of their office, and our great novelist has so well depicted the 'Sairey Gamps' and 'Betsey Prigs' of fifty years ago, that there is no need for me to recall them to your notice. Now all is changed ; a great reformation has been accomplished, and ministering angels, in the forms of well educated, sometimes highly cultured women, go forth not only to smooth the pillows of the sufferers, but to introduce into their homes three most important factors in the arrest of disease—cleanliness, cheerfulness and light. In point of fact these Nurses who visit among our sick poor are indeed true *missionaries*, carrying in their hands the gospel of health to those whose surroundings have too often been squalor, misery, and darkness. In place of the illiterate old creatures, who instead of looking after the comfort of their charges, too often comforted themselves in another way, we have now an organised body of well-trained workers whose hearts are in their duties ; whose sound common sense and sympathetic natures are appreciated equally in the palace as in the cottage ; and who, following in the footsteps of their eminent prototype, Florence Nightingale, require no words of encomium from me to plead on behalf of an Institution which not only deserves, but ought to command, the most generous public support."

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THE *Lancet*, a journal which has proved itself

a true friend to Nurses, and whose enlightened views on Nursing, matters may be safely trusted, remarks that "The opponents of the Royal British Nurses' Association held a meeting on the 27th ult. at St. Thomas's Hospital for the purpose of concerting measures to oppose the licence to register the Society without the word 'limited' as a part of its title, for which application has been made to the Board of Trade. To say that objections can be urged against the proposed Register of Nurses is to say no more than that it is like everything else that is human, whether good, bad, or indifferent. It was proved with much energy of conviction that no Register could exhibit, and no Registration test could determine, all the qualities of a good Nurse. All this may be freely admitted, and yet it may prove in the end desirable that a Register should be established for the purpose of recording and publishing such facts concerning the qualifications of Nurses as are capable of being scheduled. The present is, however, hardly an occasion that calls for a discussion of these general questions. Whether the Royal British Nurses' Association shall be registered by that title or by the title of the Royal British Nurses' Association (Limited) is not an issue which naturally or properly leads to a general discussion of its merits. Its promoters are entitled to registration under the Companies Acts if they satisfy certain statutable conditions concerning the raising and holding of their capital and other property, and they are entitled to registration in the way desired if they satisfy the Board of Trade that their Association is formed, not for profit, but for the purpose of promoting 'art, science, charity, or any other useful object,' and that the intention is to apply the profits, if any, or other income of the Association, in promoting its objects, and to prohibit the payment of any dividend to the Members of the Association. We cannot imagine that they will find any difficulty in furnishing this proof, and, if so, the present opposition will be futile. Under the circumstances, it seems to us to be singularly ill-timed, for, although the considerations agitated at the St. Thomas's Hospital meeting would be very proper to be laid before the Privy Council on an application for a charter, they ought not to affect the decision of the President of the Board of Trade."

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

MRS. MARSHALL'S School of Cookery is too well-known to need any comment from me, but the following one or two facts I was told the other day by the manager will, I think, be interesting

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