

tude of the Medical Press in regard to the question of the establishment of a General Register for Nurses by the Royal British Nurses' Association," which Dr. Sansom confesses has caused regret and surprise to himself. It must be disagreeable to play a losing game, especially when the Press and the public express in very decided terms their views as to the proceedings of those who are losing. The marvel is that under such circumstances there are persons who seem unable to realise the situation.

Dr. Sansom first indulges in a retrospect of his epistolary endeavours of two years ago, and with amusing *naïveté* seems to imagine that the protest against the Association from various Hospitals which appeared in 1889, merely emphasised his arguments. He next states that "the opposition is not cooled down, but has grown in intensity and magnitude." In intensity, yes. In magnitude, very decidedly no. In intensity, yes; because the Association has quietly pursued the even tenour of its way absolutely heedless of the futile attempts to check its career, growing in numbers, influence, and strength. In intensity, yes; because the Register has been published, because the public and medical men are consulting it already, and the lay and Medical Press have, with two absolutely unimportant exceptions, accorded to the Register and the Association warm support and praise. Yes, the intensity of the little clique of opponents has grown and developed to such a pitch as to actually lead them to oppose the issue of a licence by the Board of Trade to allow the Association to omit the little word, Limited! Opposition so manifestly "factious," as the *Lancet* termed it, as to be of supreme service to the Association by attracting numberless friends and active assistance to its cause. While as everyone knows, if the opposition succeeded, it would immensely strengthen the petition of the Association for a Royal Charter to be able to point out that its opponents had prevented it from gaining the privileges which the law affords to any ordinary Company composed of seven or more persons. But in magnitude the opposition has enormously fallen away, and Dr. Sansom therein makes the first misstatement of the many which his letter contains.

Two years ago, the subject was not understood. Many Hospital authorities signed a platonic protest against an unknown body which proposed to undertake a scheme which was in the air. Very much has happened since then. The scheme

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is an accomplished fact, the organisation of the Association has been quietly extended into every part of England and Wales, and Ireland, and into several leading centres in Scotland. From information which we have received from every part of the country we will venture to prophecy that when the facts of the present campaign are published, it will be found to have been a dismal fiasco so far as "magnitude" is concerned. St. Thomas's, the London, Westminster, and King's College Hospitals are still united against the Association, and for excellent reasons. But the opposition have lost St. George's, while Guy's Hospital is more than half in favour of the Association, and St. Bartholomew's, the Middlesex, and University College Hospitals are, as they have been from the first, its staunch supporters. In the country the tale is the same, only much more pointed. Liverpool, Leeds, and three or four smaller Hospitals are still in opposition, but where are the others who so placidly signed the Protest only two years ago? If Dr. Sansom will inquire he will find that they have learnt something of the subject since then, and have either warmly espoused the side of the Association, or have entirely declined to place themselves in a false position with the public by opposing it. In Ireland, the large Hospitals are, we believe, unanimously with the Association. Scotland, we grant, has probably once more proved its backwardness, but even there we hear of advancing knowledge of the subject; while Aberdeen loyally supports the Association and is slowly winning neighbouring Hospital centres to its way of thinking.

These facts may surprise Dr. Sansom, but if he will inquire he will find what wonderful progress has been made by the Association in the last two years, and how correspondingly weaker his side has become. These facts also utterly demolish Dr. Sansom's contention, his irresistible conclusion "that if the project of the Royal British Nurses' Association is right, then the views of the managers of nearly all our great Nursing schools are wrong," because the managers of nearly all our great Nursing schools, that is to say, the matrons and medical men of nearly all the leading London and provincial hospitals are strongly in favour of the "project" of the Association. We cannot but regret that Dr. Sansom has not acted upon the advice of the *Lancet*, and acquainted himself with the facts of the case before he publicly expressed his opinion on the subject.

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