

THE LICENCE OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

FRANTIC efforts are being made to induce Nurses to believe that the Board of Trade has been sitting in judgment on the Register of Nurses, and has cursed it by bell, book and candle. It has refused the R.B.N.A. the right to omit the word "limited" if the Association is incorporated under the Companies' Acts, and that is the beginning and end of the matter. The Board has taken just the same course with a very important body, the British Institute of Preventive Medicine. The following account shows how they have met the refusal, and will explain the matter to our readers:—

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach received, at the Victoria Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, about one hundred and fifty of the leading men of science of the day, to urge upon the Board of Trade the importance of a licence being granted to incorporate as a limited liability company an Institute of Preventive Medicine, with omission of the word "limited." Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had refused to grant this licence for the reasons given in his reply to the deputation. The President was accompanied by Sir Henry Calcraft, K.C.B., Mr. Courtenay Boyle, C.B., and Mr. Walter J. Howell.

Among the members of the deputation were the Duke of Westminster, the Earl of Feversham, Sir Frederick Abel, Sir F. Bramwell, Sir John Lubbock, Sir Benjamin Baker, Dr. Farquharson, M.P., Sir William Thomson, Sir James Bain, Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir Philip Magnus, Sir Jacob Wilson, Professor Dewar, Sir Douglas Galton, Sir Archibald Geikie, Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., Sir George Humphry, Mr. Haldane, Q.C., Mr. Seager Hunt, M.P., Sir Guyer Hunter, M.P., Professor Ray Lankester, Professor Norman Lockyer, Mr. Blundell Maple, M.P., Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., Sir Robert Rawlinson, Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., Sir George Gabriel Stokes, M.P., Professor Burdon Sanderson, Sir Henry Trueman Wood, Professor Victor Horsley, Dr. Armand Ruffer, Mr. Priestley, Sir Henry Simpson, and other members of the Royal, the Linnean, and other scientific societies.

Letters were read from Professor Tyndall and Professor Huxley.

Sir HENRY ROSCOE, M.P., in introducing the deputation, said that it represented not only the whole body of medical men in this country, but

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also, without exception, all the scientific elements amongst scientific men, and also a large number of others who were interested from the national point of view in the establishment of an institute of preventive medicine for this country, and for which it was proposed to obtain incorporation under the Board of Trade. He need not go into the question as to the national importance of an Institution of this kind. There was no civilised country in Europe, and scarcely anywhere else, in which this subject had not awakened the interest and claimed the attention, not only of the scientific men, but also to a great extent of the Governments of those countries. What they asked was that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach would be good enough to enable them to found and to carry on a British Institute of Preventive Medicine, analogous and of a similar form to those great Institutes which existed in France, Germany, Russia, and in a great number of other countries. They were sorry to find that the object which they had in view, and the request that they made to Sir Michael had not met altogether with the success which they had hoped. They learnt from the answer which he had given to Major Rasch in the House of Commons that the refusal to grant what they requested was based on objections received by the Board of Trade. They merely asked that the Institution should be registered under the Limited Company Act, with the omission of the word "limited," in order to impress the public with the fact that the Institute was not established for the purpose of gain, but purely for sanitary and scientific objects. The objections were based upon the fact that a part of the work would include experiments on animals. In reply to this they had the opinion of counsel that the Board of Trade had only to satisfy themselves that the object was charitable, and that the promoters were persons whose position was a sufficient guarantee of the high character of the proposed Institute.

Sir JOSEPH LISTER said the object of their deputation was to request Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to reconsider his decision, and to grant the licence under the Board of Trade, which was really, as it would seem, almost essential to the prosperity, if not indeed to the very existence, of the Institute. It was essential, in order that they might hold money in trust, that they should be incorporated. They had been promised a large sum of money, the receipt of which would be essentially dependent upon their incorporation, and if they were incorporated as a limited liability com-

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