

against these schemes were made clear to all men, for are they not written in the Blue Book of evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords? and in less than two years each of the denounced proposals were accomplished facts—the Registration of Nurses, carried out directly by the Association and the Brighton Home of Rest, by a Committee independent of the Association, but in thorough harmony with it.

The remaining scheme has been accomplished, on the other hand, by persons not only unconnected with, but some of whom are in open antagonism to, the Association—a fact which naturally reflects the greatest credit upon it, as proving, not only the necessity of the proposals which it enunciated, but the great indirect influence which it exerts in the Nursing world, causing improvements which it suggests to be carried out by others. This scheme, then, was undertaken, some few months ago, by a body calling itself "The Nurses' Co-operation." The founder of it appears to have been a Mr. Cheston, who generously gave £100 to commence the work. So far as we can learn, two Nurses also advanced small sums for the same object. A local habitation was secured in a good position in the West-end of London, and Miss Hicks, who has a reputation both in the military and the Nursing world—the former gained in Egypt, and the latter in the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street—was appointed as lady superintendent. A lady connected with the *Hospital* newspaper was elected as secretary, and the ubiquitous Editor of the *Hospital*, in the multitude of his engagements, is a member of the Committee of the Co-operation; but we cannot but think that it would have been wiser to have waited until the gradual development of business made an increase in the clerical staff an absolute necessity, instead of over-weighting a young society at its commencement with heavy expenses of management. After careful consideration of this and other facts, we were led, some months ago, to express our firm conviction that the principle of Co-operation was wise and right, but that, in our humble judgment, the promoters of the present scheme were not carrying out the work in the most effective manner. From all we have since learnt, we have been strengthened in that belief, and, with all deference to some of our most influential and respected readers, who have written to us very strongly urging us to support the Co-operation, and who, we believe, are them-

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selves giving the scheme their active assistance, we must maintain the views which we have expressed. We have reason to think that our views upon the financial basis of the scheme have proved correct, and that sooner rather than later it will be found necessary to invoke charitable aid to carry on the undertaking.

The fundamental objections to combining business with benevolence, and charity with commerce, have been stated in every language for hundreds of years; and as a matter of fact such a combination had never been thoroughly successful and never completely satisfactory. So we have again and again objected to the adoption of the principle in Nursing matters, and do once more object. We have pointed out that it would be quite feasible to make a Nurses' Co-operation successful if it were organized as an ordinary commercial undertaking and carefully managed, and we therefore protest against any attempt to seek for charitable aid in such a matter.

We observe, however, that the Board of Trade are now being petitioned to grant the same privilege to the Nurses' Co-operation—incorporation under the Companies' Acts without the addition of the word "Limited"—which the most active supporters of the Co-operation have recently been striving to prevent being granted to the Royal British Nurses' Association. We can hardly believe it possible that the Association will take any steps to approach the Board of Trade on the matter or to prevent the Co-operation obtaining its wish. But, as we have said, there is considerable curiosity felt as to whether the Board, after its recent decision, will grant this privilege. From the wording of the Act we should have imagined that there could be no dispute as to the Association receiving, nor as to the Co-operation being refused, the right to omit the word "Limited," because the privilege is to be granted only to bodies which divide no profits or dividend amongst their members. The Association clearly does not do this—the Co-operation was founded for this very express purpose, to divide amongst Nurses the proceeds of their work. But there is one significant provision in the Memorandum of Association. It desires powers to co-operate with the National Pension Fund for Nurses, one of the chief provisions of which is the establishment of a Register of Nurses—the actual avowed object of the opposition to the incorporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association. We do not, for a moment, desire

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