

have since then showed their determination to oppose such mischievous legislation. And only last month two general practitioners came forward at very short notice, and in the face of great difficulties to contest the re-election of the three direct representatives of the profession on the General Medical Council, chiefly as a remonstrance against the support which two of these gentlemen were supposed to have given to the Midwives' Bill. So little time was there for organisation that no one expected this would be more than a platonic protest, and it aroused no small astonishment, and conclusively proved how widespread is the feeling of the medical profession against this Bill, that these two gentlemen, despite their disadvantages, actually obtained nearly ten thousand votes between them; and with an energetic and organised canvass there is little doubt that they would both have been returned at the head of the poll. After this, and from other information which we have in our possession, as to the manner in which future Bills on this matter are proposed to be dealt with, we imagine that the question—in the form in which its promoters started it—is practically shelved for ever. Because it will be several years before such a measure could be passed into law, and by that time another solution to the problem will have been discovered. What that solution is we shall have much pleasure, on some future occasion, in pointing out. At present we can only express our deep regret that by the ill-considered action and absolute ignorance with which the matter has been treated, a greatly-needed measure of reform has been postponed.

So far as the Royal British Nurses' Association is concerned, the results have been widely different. The factious nature of the opposition to the Association on the part of the authorities of a few Hospitals was made abundantly apparent in the strenuous efforts which they made to prevent the Association obtaining the petty privilege which it sought—the mere omission of seven letters more after its name. It was transparently clear that the only object of its opponents was merely to cause the Association to be classed amongst trading companies, because, of course, they could not hinder it becoming incorporated in the ordinary manner, and with the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. The President of the Board of Trade, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, was evidently much astonished at the public and private pressure which was brought to bear upon him, and, without permitting the Association any

opportunity of defending itself, or even of stating its side of the case, he refused its application. As we prophesied at the time, nothing could have been better for the Association. The crisis has welded together its friends, and exhibited its enemies and their paucity of numbers and arguments, while it has drawn public attention to the importance of Registration more forcibly than years of ordinary work would have done. It is generally rumoured that the matter will be brought before Parliament early next Session, and that the persecution to which the Association and its Members have been subjected will be thus publicly exposed.

In May, another scheme, of the greatest value to Nurses, was inaugurated by the opening of the Home of Rest, at Brighton, by H.R.H. Princess Christian. Our readers know how violently this was opposed by the anti-Association clique, who once more showed their malicious antagonism to any project, however useful, which emanated in any way from the body which they so greatly dread. We are not surprised to learn that the Home has been a conspicuous success, and that in the first six months no less than one hundred and fifteen Nurses availed themselves of its benefits. We confidently look forward to the extension of this work, and to the establishment of further resting-places for tired Nurses.

The past year has also witnessed another important departure, the application of the principle of co-operation to Private Nurses. The system was foreshadowed, as a certain outcome of the formation of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in the first pamphlet which that body issued, and within three years the prediction was verified. To the principle that Nurses should receive their own earnings we accord our warmest approval and most energetic support, and we much regret that we have not been able to approve as heartily of the method in which the system has been applied. But it will develop and extend; with new men will come new measures, and we foresee the greatest benefits to the Nursing community, in the increased freedom, the greater feeling of responsibility, and the larger remuneration with which Private Nurses will in future be endowed. For we realise, as perhaps the unprofessional workers on this scheme do not, that the success of co-operation involves the success of Registration, and that the co-workers for their own protection will sooner or later find it essential to be definitely distinguished from unskilled competitors.

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