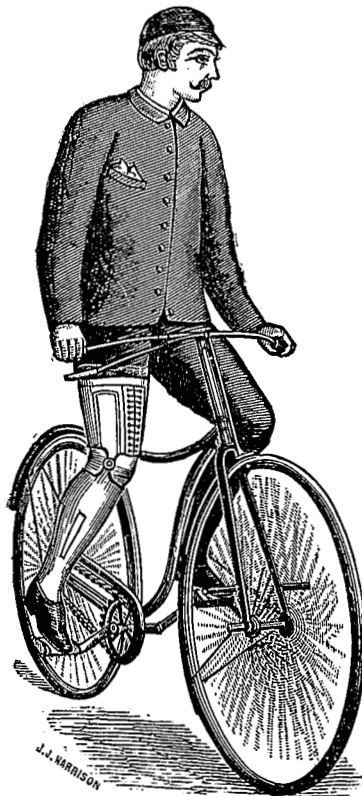


tion, cannot disguise from ourselves the truth that there have been several aims behind the opposition, while we have also had to meet a mass of unfounded misapprehensions about the objects of our society. Having in mind what this Association proposed to do, it was inevitable that opposition should spring up, but now I do trust that it will cease. Malignant spirits there are, no doubt, not a few who are unable to appreciate our objects, and whom we shall not try to persuade; but to others, who have simply been misinformed respecting us, I would say: "Come over and help us. We are trying to make our Association truly useful to the Nurses of Great Britain, and worthy of our President." I am sure there are members of my profession who have been misinformed respecting this Association, and who will have the generosity to say: "We have been mistaken," and who, like Paul the Apostle, will, from being our persecutors become our friends. Our enemies may, perhaps, retard our progress, but they can never stop it. (Loud applause.) We are beyond the dangerous time of infancy, and I anticipate for our Association a very vigorous youth and strong maturity. We have one thousand eight hundred Nurses on the Register, and this, considering the short space of time the Association has existed, is a clear indication that these one thousand eight hundred Nurses recognise the necessity for some Institution of the kind, and desire that the public should have some means of distinguishing between them. I think it shows that these trained and qualified Nurses desire that there should be some information as to their training, and that the certificates obtained from their Training Schools (perhaps stowed away in boxes with old vaccination certificates and old love-letters) should come to view and have their due weight. A few days ago, a friend of mine—a banker, whose name is well-known in Lombard Street—was at my house; and while waiting for me, picked up the "Register of Nurses" from my table. When I went into

my study, he said: "This is a very valuable production. I have had two Nurses in my house, one absolutely incapable, and the other excellent. I find the good one's name in this Register, but as for the other, I am glad to see that the wretch's name is not here." (Laughter and applause.) The Register, you see, is not only a guarantee of training and proficiency, but of the fact that they have done nothing to forfeit the certificate; because it is in the power of the Board to remove any Nurse who behaves badly, whilst the knowledge of that fact is a sort of assurance that Nurses will continue to deserve their places on the Register. Women—and Nurses are women, after all—do not like to be left out in the cold amongst a lot of antiquated old fossils, and when it becomes fully known that the *élite*, the pick, the flower of the Nursing Profession has joined us, the rest will flock in. (Loud applause.) It will be a kind of patent of nobility to belong to the Association, and there will be a desire, I feel sure, to share in an investiture such as Her Royal Highness held in Princes Hall last December, and which appeared to me a most impressive sight. (Applause.) Registration has been made compulsory in some parts of the world. I do not know whether you are all aware that at the Cape of Good Hope it was, last year, made compulsory. Now let it be very clearly understood that we do not think of anything like compulsion. Registration now is purely voluntary, and we hope for some years to come that it will continue to be a voluntary matter. (Hear, hear.) That is why we ask for no special powers for the Association in the Charter for which we seek. We want the reform to grow quietly. The Charter will give us no power to interfere with Nurse Training Schools, because we do not want, and we should be very sorry to have, any such power. (Laughter.) Quiet reforms are the best, and when we have the whole profession of Nurses registered, it will be time sufficient to ask Parliament to make Registration a compulsory matter. (Loud



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