

incorporated to make the Chartered Association. It is customary, we are informed, to restrict the list of names to not more than thirty, and we observe that the full number have been inserted in this case. It is quite evident that no pains have been spared to make the selection as perfectly representative as possible, and we can well imagine that, with the large number of eminent members of the medical and Nursing professions who belong to the Association, this selection must have been a matter of the greatest difficulty. We must confess that we should have been glad to have seen the name of Sister HENRIETTA, who has done so great a work for the Nursing profession in South Africa, and of one or two more of the well-known colonial members of the Association incorporated in the Charter, as this will be, we hope, an historical document; but we quite recognise the *embarras de richesses* under which the Association has laboured in this matter.

But there is a deeper significance, in this list, than appears at first sight. The one argument to which the opponents of the Association most desperately cling, is that the Association is opposed by all those who know most about the training of Nurses, in other words, by the medical men and Matrons of all our Hospitals. Yet here are men and women who every one of them have had much to do with the education and the employment of Nurses. Putting aside the fact that most of the medical men's names in this list are household words throughout the United Kingdom, they are attached to St. Bartholomew's, Charing Cross, University College, St. Mary's, King's College, St. George's and Addenbrooke's Hospitals; while the Matrons represent St. Bartholomew's, the Middlesex and the Metropolitan Hospitals, the County Hospitals of Lincoln, Cambridge, York, Leicester and Sussex, the Royal Infirmaries of Aberdeen and Bristol, the chief Hospital in Dublin, and the head of Her Majesty's Royal Naval Nursing Service. In fact, this list alone, leaving aside the number of equally well-known names, and the thousands of the rank and file of the Nursing profession, who are included in the Association, utterly demolishes and pulverises the favourite argument to which we have alluded, and will simply expose those who raise it before the Privy Council to well-merited ridicule.

Then we arrive at the "Purposes and Powers of the Corporation," which are thus given:—

- (1.) The maintenance of a List or Register of Nurses, showing as to each Nurse regis-

tered, her name and address and the name of the Hospitals or other places at which she has been trained, and the length of training which she has received.

- (2.) The founding and maintenance of schemes for the benefit of Nurses in the practice of their profession, and in times of adversity, sickness, and old age

- (3.) The promotion of conferences, public meetings, and lectures, in connection with the general work of the Corporation.

- (4.) The doing anything incidental or conducive to carrying into effect the foregoing purposes.

And—as Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT says, this week, with ill-concealed chagrin—"that is all." Because the rest of the Charter is taken up by purely formal matters of detail. "These powers seem to be surprisingly modest" to him, and although no one could, for one moment, admit that he is an authority upon modesty, most people will entirely agree with him, on this occasion. From what is commonly reported, the case of the Association is so overwhelming in its strength and completeness, and its opponents will bring down upon themselves, and others, such crushing disclosures, that the Association might, very possibly, have asked for much more extended powers. But we, as independent critics, frankly admit that the Association has from the first shown that it knows its own business very well, and there can, therefore, be little doubt, that it has asked for all it wants, and for nothing either more or less.

But Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT once more exemplifies the highly honourable conduct he so frequently exhibits, by giving long quotations from a "private and confidential rough draft" of the Charter, which was under private discussion at a private meeting of the Council of the Association in 1889. It would be interesting to know how he became possessed of this piece of property of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It is quite evident that no one has been dishonourable enough to furnish him with copies of the various alterations which have since been made in the document until it finally reached the form in which the Association has now sanctioned its publication. No one who has watched Mr. H. C. BURDETT's proceedings will be one whit surprised at his conduct in printing extracts from a "private and confidential" document which clearly does not belong to him, and which, we are informed, he had no permission to publish.

Putting aside the legal questions which arise

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