

and do keep in touch with their nurses after they have left the schools is an extraordinary flight of imagination, as all our readers are well aware.

Paragraph 11 asserts that a body which maintains a general Register of Nurses should be representative of and receive the concurrence and support of (1) the general body of Nurses, (2) the Training Schools, and (3) the governing bodies of the leading Hospitals. We cannot see what Hospital Committees have to do with the control of professional women who are not in their service, but if it pleases the Petitioners to express the sentiment, it can hurt no one. Unfortunately, however, they are not content to stop here, because paragraph 12 actually asserts that "the Association has no claim to be considered representative of any of the above-mentioned classes of persons." The statement that a body composed of at least one-fifth of the whole profession is not representative of Nurses; that one comprising the matrons of one hundred and fifty British Hospitals, and which has the concurrence and support of the leaders, and many hundreds of the rank and file of the medical profession is not representative of those who train, educate, and employ Nurses, is so preposterous that it will not bear a moment's investigation. And then, with the calm assertion that the Association does not require incorporation in order to carry on its work, which, except the Register, the Petitioners admit to be desirable and beneficial, they end by humbly praying that HER MAJESTY may be pleased not to grant the Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Our readers now have the whole case, for and against the Association, before them. Our views on the subject are well known, but we have given those of the opposition. We do not approve of the tactics of those who only publish one side of the case which they support. It is understood that a public inquiry will soon be opened into the matter, so that until that is concluded we shall say nothing more upon the subject.

#### VIVISECTION.

It is well known that there exists a considerable difference of opinion as to the usefulness or propriety of experiments upon the lower animals. It is now the law that such experiments must be performed by licence of a Secretary of State, and, if possible, under anæsthetics. But are not poor human beings to have equal pity shown to them? Is it not time that a beneficent Legislature which interfered to protect cats and dogs should now take steps to save men, women, and

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children from unnecessary suffering and loss of life? Every day women go out as Nurses, who know nothing, and care less, about the sick; some because they want to make an easy living; some, undoubtedly, because they desire to appropriate other people's property. Yet the public, in blind faith, actually pays for the services of such women; and when efforts are made by the leading members of the medical and Nursing professions to reform the scandals, and the Nursing Institutions who profit by them protest against reform, the public languidly yawns, and wonders "what all this Nursing controversy means." "Do you like paying to be vivisected, Mr. John Bull? That is what it means. If not, the sooner you protect yourself, as you have protected the cats and dogs, the better for yourself and those who are nearest and dearest to you."

#### THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION CHARTER.

To clear away some misconceptions which appear to exist upon this subject, we may say that we have very carefully examined the Draft Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and have taken legal advice upon the matter also, and we find that the Charter, if granted, will only and solely incorporate the Association, enable it to hold property, and enjoy the other rights and privileges which legal incorporation confers. It gives the Association no control or authority over Hospitals or Nurse-training Schools, and no power to regulate the training which Nurses shall undergo. It does not make it compulsory upon any Nurse to register herself any more than it makes it compulsory upon the public only to employ registered Nurses. In fact, these arguments which have been advanced against the Charter are all specious untruths, designed to conceal the real reason for the extreme opposition to the publication of a list of Trained Nurses, which is that if the public is given any means of knowing who are, and who are not, skilled workers, the unrighteous profits of those who now deceive the sick by sending out ignorant and under-paid—because ignorant—attendants, would speedily, as a great scientific authority would say, be "dried up." Hence these tears!

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