

in the said petitions in opposition to the present application were presented to the Right Honourable the President of the Board of Trade, praying that such license might not be granted. The grounds of such opposition were substantially the same as those on which the present opposition is founded.

31. The Board of Trade refused the said application, and in a letter of the 6th of May, 1891, announcing such decision stated the grounds of the refusal as follows:— "After careful consideration of the objects of the Association, and of the representations made in opposition thereto, the Board of Trade are unable to satisfy themselves that the means which the Association propose to adopt are either adequate to carry out their object satisfactorily or so free from objection as to warrant the Board of Trade in the issue of a license, and under these circumstances they are unable to accede to the application." A further statement as to the grounds of such refusal was subsequently made by the Right Hon. the President of the Board of Trade in answer to a question addressed to him in the House of Commons.

32. By the Memorandum of Association of the proposed Company which accompanied the said application to the Board of Trade, the objects of the proposed Company were stated to be (among others) to form, control, and carry on (1) a register of trained Nurses; (2) a register of certificated widwives, and to determine from time to time the tests for registration.

33. In January, 1890, the Association appointed a Registration Board for the purpose of establishing an annual register of trained Nurses, and in March 1891 such Board published its first register under the title of "The Register of Trained Nurses for 1891." The Board has since published a second register, under the title of "The Register of Trained Nurses for 1892." Such registers are inaccurate and misleading,

34. In the preface to the register for 1891 it was stated (among other things) that one of the objects for which the Association was founded was the institution of a system of registration analogous to that enforced by law for many years past for medical men, and that the register tacitly asserted two great principles: (1) that the public should be protected from ignorant and untrustworthy women terming themselves trained Nurses; and (2) that the control of the nursing profession should be vested solely in professional hands. The preface to the register for 1892 contained statements to the same effect. Such last-mentioned preface also stated, in addition, that the Registration Board had carefully investigated the credentials of every applicant for registration, and had the power of removing from the register the name of any nurse who might prove unworthy of trust, but that it could not answer for the technical knowledge of any registered Nurse, or for the nature of the training which she had received, but that every hospital must of necessity be held responsible for the credentials which it had issued, and upon which the Registration Board was compelled to rely.

35. From the regulations for registration prescribed by the Association it appears that applicants are required to produce proof that they have been engaged for three years in work in hospitals or infirmaries, of which not less than twelve months must have been spent in a recognised general hospital containing at least forty beds, but that the latter condition, in so far as it relates to the number of beds, may be waived under exceptional circumstances by the Registration Board. And it further appears from such regulations that the Registration Board forms its judgment as to the qualification of applicants upon information supplied by the applicant, supplemented by confidential information furnished by referees named by the applicant, and that every nurse so registered receives a certificate or certified copy of the entry

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