

favour of the Association, and the great work in which it is engaged—the Registration of trained Nurses. On the other hand, certain Institutions—of the NOAH'S Ark species, as they have been aptly described—opposed the Association by every means in their power. The matter has dragged on throughout the year, and finally, both sides were heard by eminent Counsel, at the end of last month, before a strong Committee of the Privy Council. Judgment, it is expected, will be delivered early next year in the form of a recommendation from the Committee to Her Most Gracious Majesty the QUEEN in Council, either that the Charter should, or that it should not, be granted. Until that decision has been publicly announced, we can, of course, say nothing upon the merits of the case. But the vital importance of the matter to the Nursing profession is indisputable, and the mere fact that the application for the Royal Charter was made, and the consequent opposition and inquiry, must render this present year memorable when the history of English Nursing comes to be written. Because this is the first public, and, practically, the first State, inquiry which has been made into the Nursing question, and although, with singular forbearance, none of the innumerable scandals and abuses, which unhappily abound in our midst, were brought forward and exposed by the Counsel of the Association—for which, probably, more than one Hospital is devoutly thankful—still the question of Registration has now been brought so prominently before the public that its ultimate and complete success must be regarded as quite assured.

The real consequences of Registration, the real reasons why it has been so virulently opposed, have so often been commented upon in these columns that they need not now be further referred to. But we are pleased to observe that a very general feeling is arising, amongst those who have the best reasons for opposing the system, that opposition will henceforth be practically futile. We venture, therefore, to look forward, with considerable confidence, to the coming year, in the expecta-

tion that brighter times are dawning for Nurses—days when they will, for example, receive a fair day's payment for a fair day's work—and when they will not be defrauded of the training promised to them by various great Hospitals, in order that they may be sent out, however ignorant, to make money for their Institution—money which, there is, unfortunately, only too much reason to fear, is as ill spent as it is ill gotten, and of which only the most incomplete account is given to the public.

The system of Co-operation, which has, naturally, sprung from the establishment of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has during the past year, we are glad to learn, made great and successful strides in various parts of the Kingdom, and we doubt not that, during 1893, it will, in still further measure, advance in success and usefulness to Nurses. The Home of Rest for Nurses has, also, we are pleased, but not by any means surprised, to learn, proved to be most valuable to tired Nurses, and has, financially, proved prosperous. The progress of the Royal British Nurses' Association has been, we are led to believe, considerably chequered, but still always progressive. From all we hear, we can venture to congratulate the Association, not only upon what it has done in the past, but also upon the very material evidences, which are accumulating, that it will succeed even better in the future. Its Roll of Members and its Register both continue, slowly but surely, to grow. Its Annual Meeting and its *Conversazione* have both been eminently successful, and the public appreciation and professional approval which its work is receiving is certainly increasing everywhere.

With reference to THE NURSING RECORD, we prefer to say but little. All our readers are aware how it has grown in size, and, we are often told, in interest, during the past year. True to our motto, we purpose going forward still more during the coming twelve months; still fearlessly exposing injustice to Nurses and Nursing abuses wherever they exist; still demanding the institution of reforms at the London Hospital; still advocating Registration as a measure of protection to the

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