

Schools. The reforms are due solely to this social movement on the part of women. It is preposterous that hospitals, which opposed the admission of lady Nurses as long and as strongly as they could, should now pretend that it was their action which induced better-class women to enter the profession. Some 18 years ago, shrewd, far-sighted men saw the coming improvements, and strongly advocated that Nurses should be organised and controlled by a professional body. In 1873, the then President of the General Medical Council urged that Trained Nurses ought to be registered. But the work was great, and no one would undertake it. But Nursing made great strides; medical men early welcomed such invaluable assistance in their work; the public began to recognise the usefulness of the trained Nurse; the demand became rapidly greater than the supply, because the best class worker, especially if she were independent, preferred to work in hospitals to nursing in private houses. The consequence naturally was, that numbers of women who were absolutely ignorant of all nursing knowledge, numbers whose lack of character precluded them from obtaining other employment, and certainly some who desired opportunities of alienating jewellery, plate, and other unconsidered trifles, dubbed themselves trained Nurses, and launched themselves, in that capacity, upon the public. There can be little doubt that increasing numbers of such women have ever since been adopting the work and garb of attendants upon the sick, to the danger of the public, to the detriment of medical treatment, and to the discredit of the entire Nursing profession.

In 1886, this growing evil was brought to the notice of the then newly-formed Hospitals' Association, the guiding and controlling spirit of which was, and is, its founder, Mr. Henry C. Burdett, an official of the Stock Exchange. The Matrons of several large Metropolitan Hospitals formed a Committee of this Association to consider the question of the Registration of Trained Nurses, as a means both of protecting the public from ignorant Nurses and dangerous characters, and of distinguishing

skilled workers from those who had no claim to the title. A few months sufficed to prove to this Committee that an attempt to organise Nurses under the control of laymen would be fraught with the gravest difficulties, if not danger; a conclusion which was proved beyond dispute by a sudden move taken by the Hospitals' Association. For its Council issued, in July, 1887, a circular offering to register Nurses under the following rules:—

1. A Nurse seeking to be placed on the Register, must furnish satisfactory proof that she has worked for at least one year on the staff of a Hospital or Infirmary, and that she has been trained in the duties of a Nurse. She must also bring a certificate or testimonial of good moral and general conduct from the Matron or Lady Superintendent of the Hospital or Infirmary in which she has been trained.

2. An entrance fee of 2s. 6d., including cost of the Association's Badge, and an annual subscription of 1s., will be charged to each Nurse.

3. A Nurse will forfeit her card for intemperance or other serious misconduct or neglect of professional duties.

4. Nurses making application to be placed on the Register, must first communicate with the Secretary by letter, addressed to the office of the Hospitals Association, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.

5. Nurses wishing to remain on the Register must make application within one month from the date of expiration for renewal forms, which will be supplied to them by the Secretary of the Association.

Candidates were furthermore required to give their names and addresses and their ages, and to state whether they were married or single; how long they had been in the profession; where they were trained; and how they had been employed since leaving their Hospital. If not connected with the Training Hospital, they were also to give two "responsible references."

It is almost needless to say that the leaders of the Nursing profession declined to have anything to do with this scheme. It is a matter of history that they retired in a body from the Hospitals' Association, and that they formed the British Nurses' Association for the primary objects of bringing about the Registration of Nurses who had gone through not less than three years' Hospital training, and of keeping the control of the Nursing profession solely and altogether in professional hands. The

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