

porate are the President (Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein), and the following eminent medical men and lady matrons and superintendents:—Sir James Paget, Sir Spencer Wells, Sir William Savory, Sir Richard Quain, Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir Henry Thompson, Sir James Crichton Browne, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir Edward Sieveking, Sir Alfred Garrod, Sir George Humphry, Mr. Robert Brudenell Carter, Dr. John Williams, Dr. Wm. Bezly Thorne, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Isla Stewart (Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew's Hospital); G. M. Thorold (Lady Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital); Ethel Gordon Fenwick (late Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew's Hospital); Cassandra Beachcroft (Lady Superintendent of the Lincoln County Hospital); Margaret Breay (Acting-Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital); Mary N. Cureton (Lady Superintendent of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge); Christina Forrest (Lady Superintendent of the York County Hospital); Louisa Hogg (Head Sister Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar); R. F. Lumsden (Hon Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen); Henrietta C. Poole (Nursing Superintendent, Adelaide Hospital, Dublin); Gertrude Rogers (Lady Superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary); Georgina Scott (Lady Superintendent of the Sussex County Hospital); Maud G. Smith (Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol); Catherine Wood (late Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street). Your lordships will see from the list of names I have troubled your lordships by reading, that it contains the names of medical gentlemen of the highest position and qualifications, and also the names of many ladies connected with hospitals and infirmaries not confined to London, but from all parts of the United Kingdom. Then, my lords, the purposes of incorporation are stated on page four of the draft charter. They are the following:—“(1) The maintenance of a list or Register of Nurses, showing as to each Nurse registered 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 and sickness. (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. The Corporation may affiliate to themselves, or amalgamate with themselves, or enter into any arrangements for wholly or partially working in conjunction with any person or body of persons, corporate or incorporate, formed for all or any of the purposes for which the Corporation themselves are formed, or for any purposes analogous or corresponding thereto, and may, for the purpose of carrying into effect this power, contribute to, or receive contributions from, any person, or from the funds of any such body of persons, upon such conditions as to the Corporation may seem fit, or make such other financial arrangements from time to time with such persons or bodies as may be mutually agreed upon. The Corporation may with a view to carrying into effect the purpose of their constitution, or any of such purposes, erect and maintain adequate buildings with such accommodation as may be deemed fitting for the purpose of the Corporation, and may furnish the same with such requisites as may be necessary.” Then there are provisions as to funds vested in the Corporation, and as to the President and honorary officers. Then it provides that the members shall consist of the following persons.—“(1.) President, (2.) All persons who at the date of the Charter are members of the Royal British Nurses' Association. (3.) Persons from time to time elected as

hereinafter mentioned and being either (a) medical practitioners duly qualified to practice as such in any part of the British Empire, according to the laws for the time being in force. (b) Nurses (subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Bye-Laws for the time being in force). 4. The Corporation may provide Bye-laws for the admission of other persons to honorary membership.” Then, my lords, the Charter goes on to provide for general meetings. It contains provisions giving power to make bye-laws for the regulation and management of the Corporation. It also contains provisions for the formation of an Executive Committee, to consist of the persons who at the date of the Charter are Members of the Executive Committee or the Nurses' Association. The powers of the Executive Committee are defined, and also their duties, and then there is a provision providing that there shall be an annual report and statement of accounts. That is the draft Charter which we submit for your lordships' consideration, and for which we ask your approval. One of the principal reasons why we desire incorporation, is that greater security may be given to the public, that they are obtaining really qualified Nurses. The work the Nurses perform is a beneficial and useful work, and it may be much more advantageously and efficiently carried on if the Association has the status of incorporation. According to my instructions, about 2,700 nurses have joined our Association, and we are supported by the eminent medical men whose names are attached to the petition. In one of the paragraphs of our petition your lordships will find it stated:—“The Royal British Nurses' Association at present consists of 2821 members, including many well-known members of the medical profession, and Matrons of British hospitals. The Association has spent on the work of voluntary registration, which has been in actual operation for two years, a sum of not less than £800. Last year it received the gracious recognition by Her Majesty of its work, in the grant of the prefix 'Royal' to its name.” On page 11 of our document you find the names of the Members of the Association who are named in the incorporating clause of the draft Charter. Then there follows the names of the Registration Board. Of course I do not desire to go through all these names. Your lordships will see them for yourselves. Then I point out that on page 18, the bodies petitioning against the application for a Charter are set forth. There are three petitions, one signed by executive officers and others connected in Nurse training schools and Nursing institutions, one from the Council of the Nightingale Fund, and the third from the committee of the Westminster Training School and Home for Nurses: I believe that the number represented by these petitions is comparatively small; and on the other hand we have a representation in favour of the Association by a large number of persons eminent in the profession, and in the Army, the Navy, the Law and the Church. In the Case for the Association you also find the names of a few representative members of the General Council who have signed the petition, and there also are the replies for the Association to the objections. On page 25 there is a statement of the numbers who support and who oppose this petition. For the Association there are 1,250 medical men, 3,700 nurses, and 4,300 of the general public. Against the incorporation there are only 264 medical men, 518 nurses, and 140 members of the general public. Your lordships see that the difference is very considerable, and I am entitled to say that I am better supported than is the opposition to the Charter, by the profession itself, alike the medical

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