

I trust that your lordships will not think I am wrong in bringing them to your lordships' attention. The real device of the petitioners is to get a special sanction to the word "Trained." If it was simply a register of the British Nurses' Association for the year 1892, it would be absolutely free from objection, but then that would not carry out their object. I ask your lordships to look at pages 52 and 53 of our case, to the extract from the first annual report of the British Nurses' Association for 1889. You will there find it stated that "The General Council have held six meetings, considered all the matters brought before it by the Executive Committee and authorised the following schemes to be undertaken and carried out by the Association:—(1) The formation of registers of Nurses and of Midwives." That is not a list of members merely, but a register of Nurses. The report goes on to state:—"In the fulfilment of this programme, and of the primary purpose of the Association, the petition for a Royal Charter, the General Council has to report that the subject of registration has been most carefully and thoroughly considered. . . . The British Nurses' Association suggests registration of trained nurses and midwives as a system which has worked excellently well in protecting the public from impostors in other skilled callings. It has endeavoured to persuade State authorities to undertake the scheme, but one and all have declined to commence so great a work."

Therefore, it is not a question of having a list of members; it is not a question of publishing who joins, or of gaining strength or weight by publishing such a list, but it is by alleging to the world that they are the only Chartered Company or Chartered Association which is allowed to issue a register of trained nurses, consequently there cannot be a succession of Chartered Registers. I shall, later on, call your attention to the governing body of the Association, in view of the desire that the control of the fate of the Nurses should remain in the hands of the Medical and Nursing profession. I shall point out in what respect the Charter fails, in its provisions as being likely to benefit the profession. At page 65 of our case is the answer of the General Medical Council, "If any department of Her Majesty's Government were constituted controlling authority in relation to local arrangements, made under statute for the licensing and registration of midwives, the Medical Council would, if the Government department so wished, be willing to advise as to the general rules of education, examination and discipline, which ought to be established in the matter; but the Council would not be able to discharge, and would therefore not be prepared to undertake any duties of detail as to the registration of midwives, or as to the local arrangements for licensing and controlling them."

"That in the opinion of the Council, it would be much to the advantage of the public, and particularly would be of much convenience to the practitioners of medicine and surgery, that facilities, usable under proper guarantees in all parts of the United Kingdom, should be given by Act of Parliament or otherwise for the authoritative certification of competent trained nurses, who, when certified, should be subject to common rules of discipline; but that it does not appear to be within the province of the Council to propose legislation or other action for the object referred to, nor has the Council had any occasion to consider in detail the means by which the object might best be attained; and that, under these circumstances, the Council cannot give any opinion on the particular questions asked of it in paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of the British Nurses' Association."

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And now, my lords, in April, 1892, the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association passed a resolution that in the event of this Committee—

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—That is not the Medical Council; that is a private body.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—It is the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—But that is not a Committee with any authority; that is not the Medical Council, which is a statutory body.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—It is not the Medical Council. The Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association passed the following resolution:—Resolved: "That in the opinion of this committee any register made under the authority and with the sanction of the Privy Council, should be made subject to due regulation and control, and with adequate safeguards against the inefficient education or arbitrary exclusion of the persons registered, and with means of protecting the public against the false assumption of a registrable or registered title; and further, that such register should be made by a representative Council of the educating bodies of settled constitution."

On each of these matters I am prepared to argue that these safe-guards should be inserted particularly to protect the public against the false assumption of a registered title or the arbitrary exclusion from the register of competent nurses. I now call your lordship's attention to page 73, where we have the objects of the Association, as set forth in the Articles of Association submitted to the Board of Trade:—"To form, control, and carry on (1) a register of trained nurses; (2) a register of certificated midwives, and to determine from time to time what tests shall be satisfied by candidates for registration as evidence that they possess necessary skill and knowledge in their profession." So that when they went to the Board of Trade they proposed, and perfectly properly, to the Board of Trade, to say "we are going to make our register an authoritative document from which the public may be guided," and I say at the risk of repeating myself, that if they only want a directory it ought not to be a directory by Royal Charter, and certainly it does not require the protection, or the sanction, or the certificate, of a Royal Charter for any such object. At the bottom of page 80 of our case it is quoted from the Preface of their Register that "one of the objects for which the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded, was to remedy these undoubted abuses by the institution of a system of registration analagous to that enforced by law, for many years past, for medical men. Mistakes may possibly have been made, but no care has been spared to reduce the chances of error to a minimum. It must be explained that in accordance with all precedents, women who had been for three years engaged in nursing the sick, whether trained in hospitals or not, were for the first six months, held to be eligible for registration. At the end of that "period of grace," three years' hospital service was made an essential condition and will henceforth be the rule."

Lord HANNEN.—I suppose that explains the reason the names of those nurses are given whom you say do not appear to have the three years' qualification. They have been engaged in service in nursing the sick for three years?

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—Oh, no, they were allowed to get in whether they had been engaged for three years or not.

Lord HANNEN.—At present that has not been shown.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—The regulations they have now enforced for the fresh names requires three years' service, but they allowed persons to be registered who applied before the 30th June, 1890, whether they had worked for the three

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