

wives or Nurses who, once Certificated, become unworthy of trust. For instances are, unfortunately, well known where such women by drunkenness, theft, or even graver faults, have brought repeated disgrace not only upon themselves, but also upon the Hospital whose testimonial they are able on each occasion to produce. It would therefore seem to be most manifestly for the good name of Nurse Training Schools, as well as for the benefit of Nurses themselves, and for the safety of the public, that some system should be enforced which would (1) furnish an official and easily ascertained guarantee of the technical efficiency of every Trained Nurse or Midwife; (2) prevent any Certificated Nurse or Midwife who has been proved unworthy of trust from again disgracing her Training School and her calling.

For two years past this Association has been carefully considering the subject, and now suggests that a system of Registration of Certificated Nurses and Midwives should be so carried out as to meet both these essential requirements. It is, doubtless, unnecessary to remind you that this system has for many years been enforced by law for the medical and other professions, and that the control of Medical Registration is confided to the General Medical Council, which is composed of representatives of every University and Medical Corporation. This Association, then, suggests that for a certain limited "period of grace" every woman who can produce proofs of having been actually engaged for three years in tending the sick or women in labour, and of satisfactory moral and professional character, should, as a matter of justice and "prescriptive right," be enrolled on the Register, but that thereafter only those who can bring satisfactory evidence that they have been efficiently trained, should be Registered. And, furthermore, that the authority conducting the Registration should have power to remove temporarily, or permanently, from the Register the name of any Registered Nurse or Midwife who proves herself unworthy of that title to public confidence. The Association suggests that a Registration Council should be formed, upon which—in view of the importance of this matter to those engaged in training Nurses—every Training School for Nurses and Midwives in the United Kingdom is now invited to appoint a representative; the British Nurses' Association, as comprising more than one-fifth of the whole Nursing profession, being represented by the Members of its Executive Committee. It is hoped that to the Council thus constituted may be added a certain number of representative medical men. It is suggested that the Council should meet once or twice a year,

should draw up all the necessary rules and regulations for Registration, and be in short the governing body of the scheme. It is next suggested that once in three years the Council should appoint from its members a Registration Board, of about twenty-four persons, to meet as often as requisite, to supervise and carry out the details of Registration.

H.R.H. Princess Christian, and the members of the Executive Committee of this Association have promised to act upon the proposed Council. For the opinions of the President of the General Medical Council and of many eminent medical men as to the grave importance of Registration, we beg to refer you to the Report, and other papers accompanying this.

We would now venture to request you, Sir, to be good enough to bring this matter to the notice of the Committee of Management of your great Institution, feeling confident that your co-operation may be hoped for in the effort to secure a very necessary measure of professional reform, and public utility. Should your Committee be willing to appoint your Matron or one of your Medical Staff to express your views and wishes upon this Registration Council—and if elected thereto, upon the Board—the Executive Committee of the Association would feel much indebted if you would acquaint us with the fact as soon as possible. It is proposed to hold a first Meeting of the Council on Friday, December 6th, at two p.m.; and it would be the wish of the Association to offer some small measure of hospitality to your representative. An early reply would, therefore, greatly oblige, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

CATHERINE J. WOOD, *Secretary.*

Now, it is most important to clearly comprehend the replies received to these circulars, which were issued—as we have shown, and as it was explicitly stated at the time—for the purpose of proving beyond any subsequent dispute that the British Nurses' Association, before taking any action of its own, had both asked for the assistance and advice of the General Medical Council, and had appealed to the Nurse Training Schools of the United Kingdom, asking them to take part in the work of Registration. The General Medical Council, in November, 1889, unanimously passed the following important resolution, which was proposed by Sir JOHN SIMON, and seconded by Dr. MACALISTER "That, in the opinion of the Council, it would be much to the advantage

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)