

not be disappointed when I announce to you, without further preface, that the QUEEN, on the advice of her Privy Council, has determined to grant a Royal Charter, incorporating our Association. (Loud and continued applause.) You will all feel with me that the day on which this gratifying intelligence is published to our body is specially appropriate, as being that on which my Mother completes another year of the life which is so dear, and becomes ever dearer, to her people. (Loud applause.) I need hardly remind you how deep my mother's interest has always been in the great questions of public health, and in all institutions which have for their object the better provision for its maintenance. At this auspicious moment in our history, it may not be out of place to say a few words to you in regard to the origin and prospects of our Association. Five and half years ago was set on foot the movement which has to-day received such powerful and gratifying impetus. Its object, as you know, was to raise the general standard of the education of Nurses, not only in this country, but throughout the Empire. During the period of its existence we have had the satisfaction of seeing its work steadily develop, and Hospital after Hospital has been induced to extend its term of training for Nurses, until now the majority have adopted the term advocated by the Association, viz., three years, while the Select Committee of the House of Lords has expressed the opinion that that is the minimum period required for training Nurses who could rightly be advertised as thoroughly trained. Another object aimed at by the Association has also been to a great extent attained. The Association has succeeded in improving the position of Nurses, which formerly was far from satisfactory. By means of its benevolent schemes, by the establishment of Homes of Rest and Co-operative Offices for employment, measures which were suggested by our Association in 1888, and which have since been set on foot by other agencies in various parts of the country, it is notorious that Nurses have obtained the greatest material benefits. Our Association has striven, and continues to strive, to protect the public against the grave dangers to which they are exposed in times of sickness by the fact that women who have not the slightest claim to the title of trained Nurses are nevertheless able to obtain employment by means of certificates doubtfully secured, or of Hospital testimonials of which they have subsequently proved themselves unworthy. We have already compiled and published an alphabetical Register, upon which nearly 2,000 trained Nurses have voluntarily enrolled their names, and from which we have the power to

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

remove the name of any individual who may disgrace her calling. Thus a hopeful beginning has been made of a system which has worked well in other professions. I cannot, of course, conceal from you that these results have not been attained without persevering effort, for our Association has had to encounter no little opposition and great misrepresentation. All this has been quietly and patiently borne under the conviction that our cause is a just and beneficent one, and that in the end it will most certainly prevail. We shall not allow the success which is crowning our endeavours to make us either highminded or idle, but we shall persevere with fresh encouragement from the event of to-day in the path of honest and laborious work. May I express a hope that the authorities of Hospitals throughout the kingdom, to whom we appealed in 1889, may be persuaded to take part in our work, and by their advice, to assist in carrying out those measures of Nursing reform which are urgently needed for the safety of the sick, for the assistance of the medical men, and for the welfare of the Nurses themselves. I cannot bring these remarks to a close without paying my tribute of gratitude and admiration to all those who have worked so zealously and unweariedly to attain the end which our Association has in view, and I must offer to them my heartfelt congratulations on the cheering news which it has been my privilege, as your President, to announce to you to-day. Let us, one and all, resolve to go forward in the spirit of the motto chosen for our Association, a motto familiar and dear to me from my earliest days as that of my beloved father's family. Only let us be "Steadfast and true," and then we need have no fears for the result of our labours. (Prolonged applause.)

* * *

THEN, in a few eloquent words, Sir WILLIAM SAVORY laid stress upon the immense debt of gratitude which the Association owed to its President, for her steadfast support, her untiring interest, and her wise counsel. Sir JOSEPH FAYRER proposed a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, which was seconded by Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, and supported by Sir RICHARD QUAIN and Miss STEWART, Matron of St. Bartholomew's. Dr. GAGE-BROWN proposed, and Mr. ALFRED COOPER seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to Sir WILLIAM SAVORY for taking the Chair, which that eminent surgeon and staunch supporter of the Association briefly acknowledged, and, after some formal business, the Meeting ended.

* * *

I AM sorry that I cannot give the text of the vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, but considerable

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)