

In the first place, the Lords of the Council, after hearing all the statements so eloquently made against the Association, have paid it the high, but well-deserved, compliment of inserting, amongst the reasons modestly advanced by the Association in favour of its incorporation, the following significant paragraph.

"And whereas it appears to us that a permanent Association formed for the purpose of maintaining a closer connection among persons practising as Nurses, and thereby ensuring mutual counsel, comfort, and support, and *for the purpose of disseminating, to the public at large, information respecting such persons is likely to prove of much public benefit, and that such purposes would be better insured by the incorporation of such an Association.*" (The italics are, of course, ours.)

We congratulate the Association upon obtaining, from the highest Court in the realm, such a complete and ample justification of the importance and usefulness of its work. And we need hardly point out to our readers how this judgment pulverises the arguments and assertions which have been so diligently set forth against Registration.

After this, no alteration is made until we come to the Section defining the Purposes and Powers of the Corporation—where very significant additions and alterations appear. To make the meaning and full effect of these clear, we place the Registration powers asked for by the Association, and the powers granted by the Privy Council in parallel columns.

POWERS SOUGHT.

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.

POWERS GRANTED.

The maintenance and publication of a list of persons who may have applied to the Corporation to have their names entered therein as Nurses, and whom the Corporation may think fit to enter therein from time to time, coupled with such information about each person so entered as to the Corporation may from time to time seem desirable.

In other words, the Privy Council have granted to the Association wider powers in the keeping of its voluntary list of Nurses than the Association ventured to ask for. The only other changes made by the Privy

Council in the Draft Charter, are, that the qualifications of members are, as usual, taken out of the Charter and left to be defined by the Bye-laws; that all the Bye-laws must, as usual, be confirmed by the Privy Council before they can come into force; and, according to the suggestion of the Association, that no fines or penalties on members should be inserted in the Bye-laws.

In short, the Royal Charter has been won in the face of the greatest and most powerful opposition, and, as we have shown, the Association has received, indirectly, the highest testimony to the public importance of its work; and, directly, more powers than it sought for.

One practical question remains to be answered, and our task in narrating the history of Registration is done:—What will the Royal Charter do for Nurses? It forms the Royal British Nurses' Association into a body corporate; which can move and act as one body; which can defend itself or its members or take proceedings against others, if the occasion should arise, in a Court of law; which can, in its own name, hold landed property to the value of £2,000 a year; which can take over and administer funds for the benefit of Nurses; which can undertake financial responsibilities without its individual members being liable. It places the Association amongst the few great and notable Corporations which have been honoured by this ancient and honourable form of incorporation, and gives it a status and a prestige with the public which no other body of Nurses in the Empire possesses or is likely to obtain. And so members of the Royal Chartered Association will certainly hold a higher position in future, than that held by any other Nurses in any part of the British Empire. The Royal Charter, moreover, by its recognition of the profession of Nursing places the calling upon a higher basis than it has ever yet attained to; while it distinguishes its members from the quacks and the charlatans who now pretend to be trained Nurses. Indeed, inasmuch as the Royal British Nurses' Association is the only body of Nurses recognised, or likely to be recognised, by the State, we are, probably, within a measureable

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