

## MISS ROSINA GRAHAM SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION.

Miss Rosina Graham said that although she had been an absentee from the Royal British Nurses' Association for some time, she would like to say a few words. She felt sure that all who were trained Nurses would agree with the last speakers, and she hoped that they would all vote true to their colours, remembering at the same time that a house divided against itself could not stand. She hoped that they would all think the matter very carefully over and vote as *trained* and British Nurses. (Applause.)

## MISS HOMERSHAM SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION.

Miss Margery Homersham next addressed the meeting, and in the course of her remarks said that if they admitted Asylum Attendants to the Register they could not refuse them the membership of the Association, and if once they became members they would have as much right to use the letters M.R.B.N.A. as those who were really trained Nurses. There was also another matter which needed serious consideration, and that was the fact that the Royal British Nurses' Association had approached the Medico-Psychological Association, and she thought that was where the vital mistake had been made, and where they themselves had such good reason to protest. Had the Medico-Psychological Association approached the Royal British Nurses' Association, she thought that every member of the latter body would have given due consideration to any proposition which might have been put forward for the recognition of trained Asylum Attendants. But the position was otherwise, and of course Mrs. Hughes had given them the real truth. People would do a good deal for ready money.

## DR. BEDFORD FENWICK SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick (who was greeted with cheers), said that there were two or three matters in connection with this resolution upon which he thought a medical man ought to speak, and as he knew a good deal about the affairs of the Association he thought he could speak with some authority upon them. He stated that the Association was founded for two reasons, both connected with the Registration of Nurses. It was started to protect the public against the large number of women who were then working, terming themselves trained Nurses, but many of whom were well-known to be as devoid of character as they were devoid of knowledge. That was notorious ten years ago. Things had altered very much for the better since then, in consequence largely of the Registration of Nurses. The

public to a very large extent had been protected against these women, and the public now had some means through the Register of knowing who were, and who were not, trained Nurses. It was also started as a matter of fair-play to the Nurses themselves, to women who had devoted a large number of years of arduous work to securing experience and efficiency in the duties entrusted to them as attendants upon the sick—(applause)—in fact, as a measure of justice to the Nursing profession. Now he had no hesitation in saying that this proposal to admit on to the Register of Trained Nurses persons who were not trained Nurses was a measure deceptive to the public, and most unjust to those women who had already obtained admission on to the Register. The opposition to this scheme, therefore, had a very strong case indeed; and the public would see that women or men who had worked in Asylums for three years, but had not been taught in those Asylums anything about the general Nursing of the sick, might, if this claim were allowed, have their names placed upon the Register, and call themselves, under the authority of the Royal Charter, trained Nurses. These persons could go to an Institution and be sent out as Registered Nurses; they could go to the public and call themselves Registered Nurses; they could say that they had the authority of the Corporation to prove that they were qualified to act as Trained Nurses. It was beyond all argument that this was very wrong. The public were absolutely defenceless in this matter. They could not tell by looking at a Nurse whether the man or woman in question had been trained to carry out, properly and efficiently, the duties upon which life or death might depend. They were consequently trusting to the Register, and every year they were trusting more to the Register, that the persons who call themselves Registered Nurses were fully qualified for that work. If this scheme were carried that guarantee would be lost, and the Register would become a source of danger to the public instead of a source of protection. (Applause.)

He had been much struck by hearing at this meeting that the Matron of a large Lunatic Asylum had admitted that the persons who worked in that Asylum were not qualified to attend upon the sick. They were qualified to attend upon the sick in mind, but the sick in mind were not necessarily sick in body; and he added that his own inquiries confirmed the evidence given by this lady.

He was sure that the medical profession would not approve of the suggestion to place upon the Trained Nurses' Register persons who were not trained Nurses. The discussion which had arisen in the Medical press concern-

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