

leading hospitals in this country, but by those in our colonies and in America: while the same movement is gaining ground in foreign institutions. The details of a uniform system of education are being seriously discussed by leading hospital matrons. State registration is an accomplished fact in one of our colonies, and before long will be carried out in other parts of Greater Britain, and probably in the United States, while it is only being prevented in this country for reasons to which we will draw attention directly. Nurses have united and are uniting with the utmost benefit to themselves and with advantage to the public, in every part of the world. And thus the progress of reform has been, in many cases, more rapid than its most ardent supporters could have expected.

In this country, at any rate, the crux of the whole question is State Registration. As we have frequently pointed out, the analogous case of the medical profession proves that questions of education must to a large extent depend upon the decisions of a Council appointed by Parliament to carry out a system of general education and control for the nursing profession. Let us face, then, the present position, and observe the prospects of obtaining legislation for nurses. The powerful opposition to Registration is based upon pecuniary interests, and is, therefore, all the more bitter. It is essential to those who desire to sweat nurses, and to deceive the public, that the former shall be kept in subjection to themselves, and that the latter should be kept in ignorance of the training and education of their private nurses. Past events have shown that such opponents will fight to the bitter end, with complete unscrupulousness, to prevent the pecuniary injury which they would receive from Registration.

But it is said that those who would be benefited by registration should be sufficiently powerful to obtain it. Thoroughly trained nurses, at present, are placed in unfair competition with women who have undergone no arduous and lengthened training, but who are sent out by institutions which reap the reward of their labour—as thoroughly trained nurses. On the other hand, there are public and private institutions which—either because they are bolstered up by public charity, or because they are compelled by the stress of competition to do so—send out private nurses to the public at less than the ordinary charges, thus underselling the services of the thoroughly trained nurse; but it may, not unfairly, be said that they have

the excuse that they are supplying an inferior article.

It would, therefore, be to the great and obvious advantage of trained nurses that there should be a State-maintained Register and a State-appointed Council controlling the nursing profession, eliminating the black sheep from the ranks, and protecting the skilled worker from the half-trained amateur, or the altogether ignorant pretender.

Then again, the interest of the public in this matter is sufficiently obvious. They have, at present, no means of ascertaining whether a woman in cap and apron, to whom is entrusted the care of their nearest and dearest, is a thoroughly trained nurse or a raw probationer sent out from the wards of an institution, or even, perhaps, someone who has donned the uniform without the slightest right, either in character or knowledge, to wear the nurse's garb.

Why, then, have not the nurses and the public demanded this measure of protection to both? The reason is very simple. The nurses have been terrorised; their economic dependence has led to their subjection to persons who, for reasons yet to be revealed, are opposed to registration. In due time, the matter will be investigated, and the facts elicited, why the Royal British Nurses Association was captured, and why the nurses were ousted from the management of their own affairs, and thus were prevented from carrying out the work to which that Association was publicly pledged. For the time being, it is sufficient to note that Mr. Edward Fardon and his friends, chiefly by means of the votes of nurses paid by the Middlesex Hospital—that is to say, paid by the contributions of the public to that institution—have obtained autocratic authority in the Nurses' Association, with the result that its efforts to secure protection for the public have altogether ceased. In due time the public will be able to learn the reason for these proceedings: Suffice it for the moment to say that, by the action of a few medical men, the work which nurses desired to do for the improvement of their profession has been prevented. The leaders of the profession desired that much needed reforms should be made, slowly and quietly within the ranks of the profession itself. Sir Henry Burdett, Sir James Crichton Browne, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. John Langton, Mr. Fardon, Dr. Bezly Thorne and their few friends and supporters have succeeded in rendering this

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