

woman who transgresses in this respect, and brings discredit on the nursing profession as a whole.

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THE Managers of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Dublin, an institution which is doing good and useful work, have decided to build a new Nurses' Home at a cost of about £3,500. Additional accommodation is necessary as, since additions have been made to the Hospital and the domestic staff increased, their dormitories have been so overcrowded that the medical officers have stated they are actually insanitary. It was found that the present sleeping accommodation for the nurses could, at a trifling expenditure, be made suitable for the servants, and it has been decided that this shall be done and a new house built for the nurses. This will, we are sure, be a satisfaction to Miss Bradshaw, the able Matron, who has the welfare of the staff under her control much at heart.

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MISS ANNIE M. COLQUHOUN, Secretary of the Canadian Nurses' Association, informs us that there was a wrong view altogether taken of their desire to incorporate, and as this idea has been circulated abroad, she asks us, in justice to her Society, to reprint the following letter, sent by their solicitor to the Canadian Press, a request to which we are pleased to accede.

CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of *The Gazette* :—

Sir,—Regarding the Canadian Nurses' Association Bill, recently before Parliament, there are 101 nurses in the association. The object of the association is to provide instruction for nurses in the way of lectures, etc., to maintain a high standard of professional honour, to advance in every way the interests of the trained nurse, and at the same time to provide capable and reliable nurses to both rich and poor.

The majority of the members are Montreal General Hospital and Royal Victoria nurses, but there are members from Toronto, London, Kingston, Guelph, Peterboro, and a number of the American hospitals.

This is, so far as we know, the only general association of trained nurses in the Dominion, and this association has been in existence since April, 1895. A register is kept in connection with it, in which there is recorded a list of nurses, where they are to be found at any hour of the day or night, etc., etc.

You will see from the above that the application to secure a charter for this association was not an attempt on the part of half a dozen nurses to obtain exclusive privileges, as was inaccurately said in your report. The provision requiring that candidates be declared qualified by a medical advisory board, was inserted to secure a higher standard and clearly in the interests of the public who need the nurses' services.

MORRIS & HOLT.

Montreal, May 23rd, 1900.

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At the request of a Canadian correspondent, we dealt fully with this matter in the Spring, and it

would appear that the name of the above Association, is a little misleading, as it is evidently a body of nurses associated together primarily for commercial purposes, and not simply for educational and *professional* purposes, as a National Association of Nurses should be, and the fact of the Canadian Nurses' Association having proposed in their application for a Charter, to submerge the trained nurses of Canada, by placing them professionally under the absolute control of a medical directorate, startled their colleagues in the Dominion, and aroused a fierce and just opposition to this principle in their scheme. As our readers will remember, Professor Robertson, M.D., M.P., of Toronto, and many Superintendents of Nurses, opposed the grant of a Charter to the Canadian Nurses' Association, and until the members of this Association have realised that unless they are ready for a large share of self-government they are not ready for incorporation, they have not even grasped the first principles of forming a professional body.

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WE hear that nurses in Canada are taking council together concerning the important question of forming a National Association of Nurses. It is to be hoped that they will not be coerced into placing themselves in so false a position as the nurses in South Australia, who have formed a Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association under the authority and chairmanship of the Governor's wife, Lady Tennyson, thus, for the first time, admitting the control of a lay woman in an Association founded by trained nurses for professional and self-governing purposes, and thus, both politically and professionally depriving themselves of all liberty of conscience or action. It is this patronage by women of title, quite ignorant of our needs and aspirations, which we have work to do to keep within bounds in England. Trained nurses are not charity children, and they must make this clearly understood.

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THE leper hospital in the capital of Madagascar contains no less than six hundred patients, and until quite recently there was only one doctor and not a single nurse to attend to these unfortunate beings, as fear of contracting the dreaded disease kept everyone else from entering the building. Now, however, six young Sisters of Mercy have volunteered for service in the hospital, and recently, walking through crowds of pitying townspeople, they passed through its gates which will never again open to them alive. We can imagine the solace and pleasure the presence of these devoted women will be to the sick and suffering, in whose service their lives will henceforth be spent.

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