

and remained in their hospital, well and good; if they were trained and went out into private nursing, also well and good; but had they ever thought of what became of the inefficient Nurses who were sent out before their education had been completed? Probably out of any given number of Probationers only two-thirds completed their training. What became of the others? Incapable Nurses, whom she had sent away from her own hospital, she had known to turn up again, in a position of great responsibility, at the bedside of a private patient. Everybody was not a "born nurse," and it was no disgrace to say to a woman, "I do not think Nursing is your true career; therefore, you had better give it up." But Nursing was thought to be the thing to do, and so it came to pass that they had applications from women of all classes, seeking to procure some training in a hospital. Only the other day, a doctor heard, at a house where he was attending, of a Nurse in charge of a bad case, who said she had been trained at St. Thomas's Hospital. He was a doctor on the staff of St. Thomas's Hospital, and, surmising the facts, went down to the hospital, and asked for the roll of Trained Nurses; but the name of this good woman was not to be found there. On inquiry, it turned out that she had been working in the kitchen of St. Thomas's Hospital, and had not been there long before she left, and, as there was no one to say her nay, she was allowed to defraud the public. Now, that seemed a very great shame, and a very wrong thing indeed; for although, at the hospital, if a Nurse was not doing her work correctly, there were plenty of people to see what should be done, and to do it, when an inefficient Nurse was sent out of a hospital, and re-appeared at the bedside of a private patient, it was a very different thing. The consideration of all this had come before their committee in London, and plenty of people were willing to come forward and help them; but they must take care to work upon a right principle. The present disorganised state of the Nursing profession was much to be deplored, and there was no check upon shams. There was another reason why the Nursing profession was so thoroughly out of joint, and that was the varying length of time, in different hospitals, in which a Nurse had to go through her training, before her education as a Nurse was complete. There was no doubt whatever that the Nurses in those hospitals which gave three years' training were the most efficient; but, on the other hand, there were hospitals which competed with them, which boasted of the number of Nurses they turned out in a year. There must be a *necessary* time in which a Nurse had to learn her work, a certain reason for calling anyone a "Trained Nurse," or else there was no meaning in the term. And this had struck many leaders of the Nursing, and the Medical professions, and they had thought it was time to see what could be done. They must bear in mind, however, that

this Association was not a trades'-union in any sense. In the Nursing profession, the Nurses all stood apart, each Nurse a unit. What was wanted was, that they should combine for mutual welfare and improvement, as in other professions. They desired no trades'-union. The only thing the association insisted on, was that a certain period must be passed before a Nurse could be considered to have completed training, or be allowed to earn her living from the public as a Nurse. Nor did they seek a separation from the medical profession. On the contrary, there was no doubt whatever that the two professions must always remain as they now are, inseparably united. They all knew that if a bad case occurred, it was the doctor who was called in, and he who probably said at once, "We must have a special Trained Nurse." Therefore, they would see that the Nursing profession was dependent entirely upon the medical profession for its work, as for its good name. The medical profession of the country had shown the kindest disposition to support the Association with the warmest cordiality and sympathy. They said, "Yes, this is very much needed, and we are glad to co-operate with you." The British Nurses' Association was formed strictly on a basis for the mutual benefit of the two professions; and, as at present, so in the future, they hoped that the members of the medical profession would take an active part in the affairs of the Association. Anyhow, there could not be any fear of Nurses setting up an independent body, or of placing themselves at all on a level with the British medical profession. It was a matter of great importance that in hospitals in the country, nursing should be well done. In London, and in some other large towns, there were large medical schools attached to the hospitals; but, on the other hand, in the smaller country hospitals Nurses got better training than in London, because they had more to do, and very much was left in their hands, which in a town hospital would be left to the students to do. In the country hospitals, there was a very great diversity of idea as to what amount of work should be done at a hospital, and many other matters required discussion. She had been deputed to come down and put this matter of the Association before them. Having pointed out some defects, she would point to the remedy. Of course the one remedy was in union. As one body they should go up to the Government and say, "We want you to give us a Royal Charter to legalise our Registration." They looked upon this Royal Charter as very much the remedy for all the ills the calling of Nursing was heir to. Many of the Nurses present, knew that in the case of the medical profession there was a large book kept in London, in which the name of every gentleman who was a qualified member of that profession was entered, and he could not practise his profession, unless his name was entered in that book. But before that could be done he had

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