

that all present who were eligible, would prove their interest in the work, by giving in their names without delay.

Miss SPENCE (Matron of the Children's Hospital) seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

After a graceful acknowledgment from Miss WOOD for the kind manner in which the vote of thanks had been presented, a similar compliment was paid to Dr. Malins for his kind and able occupancy of the chair, on the motion of Dr. MORRISON, seconded by Dr. CROOK, and the proceedings then terminated.

PRESS OPINIONS UPON H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN'S LETTER ON THE BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE following "leader" appeared in the columns of our influential contemporary, the *Times*, on the 12th inst. :—

"We published yesterday a letter from the Princess Christian, pleading the cause of the 'British Nurses' Association,' a society of which Her Royal Highness has become the President, and to the organisation of which she is known to have devoted much time and thought. As described by the Princess, the Association has been founded in order 'to unite all British Nurses for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of their professional work;' and such an object, inasmuch as the work in question is the promotion of the recovery of the sick, seems calculated to appeal to all who may at any time be liable to suffer from disease or accident. The Princess tells us, in effect, that, while the complete training of a Nurse is a matter of considerable time and cost, and while the demand for Nursing service is such that no surgeon or physician would willingly undertake the treatment of a serious case without the assistance which a trained Nurse is able to afford, there is at present no ready means of distinguishing between Nurses and untrained women, and that many of the latter class are accustomed to hold themselves out as belonging to the former. Women who have been dismissed from training as unfit for the occupation, or who have withdrawn themselves almost at the beginning, are known to be offering their services as 'hospital trained Nurses;' and although their knowledge is not sufficient to render their assistance valuable, it may nevertheless be sufficient to enable them to impose upon the unwary. Nurses, real or fictitious, now amount to several thousands in number; and the first object of the Association is to separate the sheep from the goats, and to establish, it is hoped, on the secure basis of a Royal Charter,

a system of Registration which will confer upon every trained Nurse an indefeasible right to assume the title, and to undertake the duties of her calling. Those who, after such a system is established, had failed to avail themselves of it, might reasonably be required by employers to furnish satisfactory reasons for the course they had thought fit to pursue. It does not seem probable that the Association will ever desire to obtain power to prevent unregistered persons from undertaking the care of the sick; but it would be quite reasonable that Registered Nurses should be preferred, and that, because of the definite character of their qualifications, they should be able to command higher rates of remuneration than would be paid to others. The proposed Register would be nominally for the protection of qualified Nurses; but, in reality, it would be for the protection of the public against the unqualified. As the Princess points out, the demand for a Nurse is usually a demand of emergency; and very few employers are able to ascertain whether the person sent to them is or is not thoroughly competent to fulfil the duties of her office.

"Besides the primary object—that of obtaining a charter under which to conduct the Registration of qualified persons—there are, the Princess tells us, other objects also, to which almost equal importance should be attached. Her Royal Highness has not specified these secondary objects in detail; but she refers to the very useful and practical one of an endeavour to afford increased facilities for the education of Nurses; and we gather, from an explanatory pamphlet issued by the Association, that the others comprise such matters as the establishment of convalescent homes and homes of rest, of arrangements to facilitate the obtaining of engagements, arrangements for the promotion of thrift, and so forth; all of them things desirable, but some might possibly be better controlled by affiliated societies than by the main body of the Association itself. As to the value of the first two, at least, there can be no question. A Nurse is frequently hurried from one anxious and arduous case to another; and is frequently called upon to enter upon new work when it would be more fitting that she should be nursed herself. She is exposed to many causes of illness, and often suffers seriously in consequence. If she is attacked by illness when employed in a hospital, she is, of course, tended in the ward for as long as her condition may require; and even in private Nursing she has facilities for obtaining medical treatment; but, when this is no longer needed, neither a hospital nor a private lodging is a place well calculated to promote the complete restoration of strength. A convalescent hospital or home of rest, suitably placed, and to which Nurses could be admitted under proper regulations, and for payments according to their means, would unquestionably tend

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