

join issue with Mr. Bonham-Carter upon them one by one. And before discussing the subject, we must first consider the qualified statement with which the article begins—that there is a feeling in the Medical and Nursing world in favour of Registration. How strong that feeling is, however, we believe Mr. Bonham-Carter is not aware. We would call his attention to the wonderful success of the British Nurses' Association, founded on February 24, and joined in six months from its inception, we believe, by close upon one thousand members. We ask Mr. Bonham-Carter to look below the surface, and realise what an extraordinary fact that is, and what it means. The Association was originated by this very matter of Registration. It was founded, primarily, to obtain a Royal Charter to legalise Registration. Many, to our knowledge, scoffed at the idea, and prophesied a speedy collapse to such an ambitious scheme. Then, to the surprise of everyone, the Association declared that it intended to be select and purely professional. It would admit no one to its membership except Medical men and Nurses. The amusement increased. Men and women pointed to the British Medical Association, founded by the leaders of the Medical profession, with tremendous *éclat*, without any scheme of enormous difficulty to be contended with, and recalled how its numbers increased by about fifty a year for many years! But then came the acme of astonishment, for the Association decided that it would not take anyone and everyone as a member. In the first place, it would not admit one woman to its membership unless she had been for at least three years engaged in Nursing, and would not accept her unless she produced irreproachable credentials. The laughter grew louder and louder, and the Association was considered to be buried before it had drawn breath. But those who had read history, those who were watching the signs of the times, felt that all this stringency, this selection, this high endeavour, boded well, and we call Mr. Bonham-Carter's most earnest attention to what has happened.

Leading Physicians and Surgeons of the United Kingdom—men whose names are household words—instantly came forward, and neglecting the fact that they were, one and all, already overworked, announced, publicly and privately, their complete approval of the objects of the Association, and gave without stint their invaluable time, advice, and assistance.

We ask Mr. Bonham-Carter only to read through the list of the thirty-six Vice-Presidents, leaving aside the many equally respected members of the Medical profession who have joined the Association, in less prominent capacities; and then we ask him to consider for one moment whether these

most distinguished gentlemen would have taken this prominent part and action in the Association, if they were not, one and all, firmly convinced of the necessity, and the usefulness, of its proposed work. We feel sure that he must agree, and then he must conclude, with us, that surely no one can be better judges of what they want in Nurses than Doctors themselves.

The progress of science makes it more and more certain that in details "doctors will differ"; but when their leaders in the Metropolis, in the Provinces, the Army, the Navy, Scotland, Ireland, the Colonies, and India are, after full consideration of the matter, all agreed unanimously upon one great principle—the advantages of Registration of Nurses—we ask Mr. Bonham-Carter, can that possibly bear more than one interpretation?

But what did Nurses do? It is estimated that there are about 15,000 Nurses at work, in the United Kingdom. Suppose that 12,000 of these were eligible, under its limitations, for Membership of the Association. Everyone knows how busy and pre-occupied a life Nurses lead, and how difficult it is—in fact, hitherto believed almost impossible—to rouse women to act together. Everything seemed to militate against the probability of many Members joining this new and untried Union. Mr. Bonham-Carter knows how some Matrons, for reasons we will not now discuss, have put the strongest pressure on their numerous subordinates to prevent them from doing so. And yet what has happened? The growth of the Association has been simply phenomenal. No one would have believed, a year ago, that such an Association, with such a programme, could have ever been initiated; still less that it could have succeeded; least of all, that actually in six months, one woman out of every twelve who were eligible would have joined the Association.

Once more we ask Mr. Bonham-Carter to consider this startling fact. He will, we know, admit at once, that, on a professional matter, experts are the best judges. And so once more we conclude that this expression of professional feeling can only bear one interpretation, and we feel sure that Mr. Bonham-Carter will agree with us.

Our space prevents us from saying more on this line of thought. One last question we would ask, however. This remarkable union, for the first time in history, of the leaders of the Medical and the Nursing world, and this rapid accession of the rank and file to their support, in working together for one great primary object—What does it mean and imply? Surely only one thing—That those who have the best means of knowing, and judging, consider that object—the Registration of Nurses—wise and necessary, and mean to spare neither time, nor expense, nor trouble, to gain their end.

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