

day from Nurses ; while a few years ago, if they had three a month, it was considered a good number ; and she believed that would be the experience of every Matron present. Probably, many of those women they were obliged to refuse, would become very good Nurses if they had the opportunity. She quite believed, however, that the profession was over-stocked by a large amount of worthless material. It is taking the bread out of the mouths of the Nurses, and doing harm to the profession altogether.

They wanted the Nurses to combine for their own self-preservation, and that they should decide, together with the Medical profession, as to what training they should go through, and that they should thus have some means of proving to the public, that they knew their work, and were not doing any harm ; and she felt very glad that there was a layman in the chair that day.

The British Nurses' Association was not in any sense a trades' union. The Nurses would be perfectly free. They did not interfere with the rate of wages, nor the term of service, their object being, simply and solely, combination for mutual welfare and uniformity of training ; and they wanted the Hospitals to combine with them, and not to throw obstacles in their way.

If a Nurse in a Hospital makes any mistake in her work, it is at once rectified ; there is always someone at hand to explain and adjust matters, so that the patient does not suffer. But it is not so in the home of a private patient. If a Doctor comes to the bedside of a patient, and finds a Trained Nurse in attendance, he naturally expects her to understand the use of different instruments—such as a clinical thermometer, &c.—also the different symptoms in various diseases ; what to do in cases of emergency ; and when to send for the Doctor if any change in the condition of the patient requires it, and so forth. He goes away, with the comfortable assurance that he has a Trained Nurse at the bed-side of that patient. This would, of course, be different if the wife or mother of the patient only were in attendance. The mischief is done when a so-called "Trained Nurse" is there, and when there is no one at hand to rectify her mistakes if she is ignorant.

They had to put these matters before the public, who had not yet, perhaps, thoroughly grasped the idea.

The British Nurses' Association wanted Nursing to be recognised as a profession. They wanted to go to the Privy Council, and say, "We want you to give us a Royal Charter." This is not very easily obtained. Five or six hundred Nurses could not go and say, "The Nurses want a Royal Charter," because there were fourteen thousand or so other Nurses who had not yet joined, and

unless the majority wanted it they would not get their Charter.

Many people say, "Oh, yes ; it's a very good thing, but I don't think we need join yet." Well, if every one said that, of course the thing was bound to collapse.

The Registration will simply be that the Nurse's name, her address, and where she was certificated, will be entered on the Roll, and this Book will be published. Perhaps some of the Nurses would not like their ages published. (Laughter.) In this way, anybody will be able to refer to the Roll. A Nurse will, in addition, have a certificate as to her having been Registered. All Nurses who joined at the present time would be taken on to the Register as a body ; the Royal Charter compelled them to admit all Nurses who had been working a certain length of time.

There were other objects the Association had in view ; benevolent schemes, a scheme for mutual improvement, &c. She hoped that the generous public, many of whom owed much to Nurses, might from time to time entrust them with sums of money to be used for the benefit of Nurses. In the fore-front of the work of the Association they placed the obtaining of the Royal Charter for Registration, and having obtained that, they would devote their time to other things.

The Association, as you have been told, is intended entirely for Medical men and Nurses ; and they hoped to have the help and support of the Medical profession, and the general public, in their efforts to form themselves into a professional body. (Cheers.)

Miss WOOD stated that, if there was any point which she had not made quite clear, or if any questions arose in their minds, she would be glad to hear them, and would reply.

The CHAIRMAN said that, as there was a good number of Medical gentlemen present, he should be glad to hear their opinions on the subject.

Dr. CLEAVER (Physician to the Children's Hospital) said, he should like to ask two questions in reference to the Registration. First, how it was to be carried out ; and secondly, was it understood that every Nurse in the country could become a Registered Nurse ? He meant women who were now practising as private Nurses, many of whom were quite young, say twenty-five years of age ; and therefore they might go on imposing upon the public as Registered Nurses for twenty-five years. If this was so, and these women could have the market open all this time, in his opinion it would be a great objection to the scheme. He had often had these "Nurses" recommended, and found them generally to be kind, sympathetic, and considerate ; but suppose the case required special attention. They had no training, and

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