

were incompetent. He should like to know what other arguments had been used against Registration, if Miss Wood would mention them.

Dr. GWYNNE (Physician to the Children's Hospital) criticised the bye-laws of the Association, which he thought had been drawn up more from the Nurses' point of view, than that of the public, especially with regard to the wages of Nurses. He thought they should not be the monopoly of the rich. The working classes certainly could not pay the high rate of wages of a Trained Nurse. There were women who did a good work in Nursing amongst the poor, and he thought they should not be compelled to give up calling themselves Nurses, as many of them were well able to do what they professed. He hoped, however, that the work of the Association would be carried to a successful issue.

Miss WOOD, in reply, was sorry to say there was no alternative. They must Register, in the first instance, all existing Nurses *en bloc*; and if the Registration were delayed another ten years, the number of impostors would be greater than now. If the Nursing profession did not Register itself, it would be done for it by some outside body; and whether we did it now, or in so many years hence, we must register *en bloc*. They would remember that, when the Dentists obtained their Charter, there was one black sheep who had drawn a single tooth, and was put upon the Register as a Dentist. But he died in time, and so she hoped the black sheep among the Nurses would die—she did not mean a natural, but only a professional death. If that was the only objection, they could not avoid it. They must not mix up the British Nurses' Association with the Registration; the two things were quite distinct. The objection in reference to bye-law No. 4, applied to the Association, and not to Registration. With regard to women who nursed amongst the poor, they could go on the Register, and call themselves Nurses. Of course, they could not compel the public to employ a Trained Nurse, but the public will then be able to have a "Trained Nurse," if they require one. Mr. Bonham-Carter had objected that they were trying to make the Nurses equal to the Doctors. This was not so at all. For instance, there was a movement on foot for the Registration of plumbers. They might as well say, they were trying to be equal to Doctors. The more a Nurse knows her business as being the hand-maid of the Doctor, the better Nurse she becomes. Another objection had been, that they did not guarantee the moral character of a Nurse. No; but they would be obliged to bring a certificate from their Matron, to say she had been of good character, &c. There are black sheep in every profession, even in the Medical profession.

The CHAIRMAN said Miss Wood would be glad if some of the Nurses would ask questions, and thus show their interest in the subject.

Miss WOOD explained that every Nurse present could be Registered, as soon as the Royal Charter was granted.

Dr. LEWIS HUNT (Medical Officer to the Sheffield Union) said that Registration would only give a guarantee to the public as to who was trained and who was not, after the first year. He thought that there was a certain class of people who quite thought they were safer in the hands of a non-qualified Medical Man, and he fancied it would be the same with the Nurses. The public would, perhaps, look on the Association as a trades' union, and there was nothing to prevent the public from sympathising with those who were not Registered.

Dr. WHITE did not think the question of a Royal Charter very important. If they had a powerful Association, a Nurse who was desirous of getting employment would join.

Miss WOOD said they had acted with the advice of the Medical Profession in the matter.

Mr. S. SNELL (Ophthalmic Surgeon, Sheffield Infirmary) asked whether a Trained Nurse had simply to make application to be Registered, or had she to be backed by two members of the public, in any way, before admission?

Miss WOOD: It is quite certain no Nurse will be placed upon the Register on her own showing. There would be a certain sifting of the applicants.

The CHAIRMAN said they had yet to draw up the terms of the Charter.

In reply to Dr. WHITE, Miss WOOD said the Association was already formed, and they had 1,000 members, and they were not a year old yet.

Mr. H. P. MARSH (Hon. Sec., Sheffield Nurses' Home) understood that the Register would contain the name of a Nurse, and also where she was trained.

Miss WOOD said that was so.

The CHAIRMAN was afraid his Medical man had never taken the trouble to show him his diploma. (Laughter.)

Miss WOOD asked the opinion of the Nurses as to what length of time should elapse before a Nurse was qualified to call herself a "Trained Nurse"?

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any Nurses who think three years too long? Receiving no reply, he then put the question in the form of a resolution:—"That, in the opinion of the Nurses present, no Nurse should be entitled to Registration as a Trained Nurse, until she has undergone three years' training." This was carried unanimously.

Miss WOOD stated that, on that question, they were in harmony with all the Nurses, wherever she had held a meeting, and taken a vote.

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