

Miss HOMERSHAM : May I ask if there is any great opposition to our wish for Registration,—any organised opposition, I mean?

Miss HOGG : If the Association appoint the Registration Board, will it have the same power and influence as if it were appointed by the State—of people outside the Association?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK : In answer to the first question, I may, I believe, say that there is neither any great opposition nor any organised opposition to the Registration of Nurses. A certain number of ladies and gentlemen object to the idea, some, because they do not understand it at all; some, because they think they understand it too well; and some because they think the time has not yet arrived for its successful execution. The first class is growing smaller by degrees, and beautifully less, as they frankly come to us for information. The second class named maintain their views, but cannot, we regret to find, explain them, and we must therefore wait and hope till they can enlighten us. Those in the third category are very few in number, but are important from their undoubted honesty of opinion. We are full of hope that therefore we shall convert them to our views. On the other hand, in seven months we have enrolled eleven hundred of the leading Medical men, Matrons, and Nurses in the United Kingdom, for the primary purpose of securing this great recognition for Trained Nurses, and this great security for the sick public. Every week we receive increased support from other quarters for the same object. We are going to work very quietly—in conscious strength. When we have quite prepared our petition, we shall present it, and spend a very large sum of money, if necessary, to obtain the Royal Charter. In face of the mass of professional power and public opinion, we shall then have on our side, backed by considerable pecuniary resources, I do not believe there will be any one ready to face the unpopularity and expense of an organised resistance to a public demand and a professional want. In regard to the second question, I will, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, ask Mr. Brudenell Carter to reply to it, as it is mainly his eloquent arguments which have converted the Executive Committee to the principle in question.

Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER said that he was glad to answer this question, and give his reasons for the course he had advocated. He pointed out that the Registration Board would have to determine who should be considered qualified for Registration, what tests should be imposed upon candidates, what course of study they must pursue, and many other details.

We much regret that by an accident our representative could not obtain a complete verbal

report of the speech Mr. Brudenell Carter, with all his well-known eloquence and clearness of reasoning, made upon this subject. He carried the meeting completely with him in remarking that professional people were the best able to judge of professional matters, and that therefore it would be much better for the future Registration Board for Nurses to be appointed by a body of Nurses and Medical men like the Association, than to gain their powers from any extraneous authorities, who might not know what was really implied in the training of a Nurse. Finally, he recalled the fact that in analogous cases, the admission to a profession was controlled entirely by members of that profession. That Medical men were examined, controlled, and registered by corporations or bodies exclusively composed of Medical men, that the Law Institution regulated the examinations and continuance in work, of solicitors, while barristers were completely under the management of their respective Inns of Court. Upon every ground, therefore, of analogy and experience, he advocated the appointment of the Registration Board for Nurses by the British Nurses' Association.

Considerable applause followed this speech, and no further observation was made upon this point.

Miss AMY E. COKE : Will Nurses not trained in Hospitals be Registered?

Miss WOOD : The Royal Charter which authorises Legal Registration will, we are informed, insist that all Nurses then at work, or who have previously worked, for fee or reward, shall have the opportunity, within a certain fixed time, of applying to be Registered. It is, we are told, a principle of English Law that all existing rights must be respected, and at present any woman, however ignorant, has the right to call herself a Trained Nurse. So at first we must Register anyone, whether trained in Hospitals or not.

Miss ROBINSON : What time will be given for Registration of these untrained women?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK : We have not definitely settled that yet, but in all previous cases twelve months has been allowed, during which any one could apply to be enrolled, and this has been called "the year of grace." We are most anxious to be perfectly just to every one, and therefore I expect that a full year will be allowed by the Charter.

A MEMBER : Then will it be a whole year before any check can be put upon the present evil of ignorant Nursing?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK : No, the check string will be applied the hour the Royal Charter is granted, because any woman who applies to be Registered, must prove that she received pay-

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