

Wimpole Street, and 66, Brook Street—the residence of Mr. (now Sir WILLIAM) SAVORY—at each of which Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN—who had graciously accepted the Presidency of the new Society—was present, and at which the Bye-Laws were further elaborated. It is noteworthy that these foundation rules were so excellently framed that they have scarcely needed alteration or addition since.

On February 13th, 1888, a great Public Meeting was held in St. George's Hall, London, presided over by Mr. SAVORY, when H.R.H. Princess CHRISTIAN and various eminent medical men and well-known hospital matrons explained the objects and proposals of the Association. Members were at once enrolled, and during the next ten days no fewer than 423 medical men and nurses had joined the B.N.A., as it was thereafter known. On February 24th, the first General Meeting of Members was held at the Middlesex Hospital, when the Bye-Laws were formally passed, and a General Council was elected as the governing body. The Council then met, and elected an Executive Committee for administrative purposes. And thus the British Nurses' Association was duly formed and constituted—(1.) To unite all qualified British Nurses in membership of a recognized profession. (2.) To provide for their Registration on terms satisfactory to Physicians and Surgeons as evidence of their having received systematic training. (3.) To associate them for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement, in every way, of their professional work. With a view to the attainment of these objects, it was declared to be the immediate aim of the Association to obtain a Royal Charter, incorporating the Association.

We must now retrace our steps to observe the attitude which a certain section immediately adopted against the Association, as this explains much which has since occurred. We have already shown the active part taken by Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT and the Hospitals' Association in attempting to open a Register for Nurses under their own auspices. At this time Sir ANDREW CLARK was the

President of this Association, Dr. STEELE, of Guy's Hospital, was an active member of its Committee, and the *Hospital* newspaper was its accredited and official organ.

On October 22nd, 1887, an article by Sir ANDREW CLARK appeared in the *Hospital*, strongly advocating the Registration of Nurses, and containing the following important paragraphs:—"We all feel that we owe Nurses a great deal, and in making this acknowledgement, we are anxious that their reputation for character, for competence, and for loyalty to their duties, shall be placed beyond dispute. Now, this cannot be said at the present moment. I do not wish to cast any reflection upon so great and important a body, but, taken, as a class, it cannot now be said that they are, all of them, efficient, that they are, all of them, always exactly the sort of characters we should wish for the sake of the body itself. Now, we should like to have every Nurse registered, to affiliate her with one of these associations, to have her affiliated upon certain grounds which would render her character and competence unquestionable." "Now, if we carry out this registration in the way we desire to carry it out, it will not only raise officially the standard of Nurses, but it will be of inexpressible good to families employing them." "*If all who read this would only help us to carry out this purpose, I am sure you would be doing a real and a great work, not only important to Nurses as a body, but to society at large.*"

To the large section of Englishmen, lay and professional, who admire Sir ANDREW CLARK, it is needless to state that he alone, of all the then officials of the Hospitals' Association, has never gone back upon his words, nor opposed the movement for the Registration of Nurses.

On numerous occasions, Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT and his paper advocated the necessity of Registration, and the *Hospital*, on December 31st, 1887, stated that, in connection with the Hospitals' Association, "a Nurses' Registration scheme, the value of which will be enormous, both to those who employ Nurses and to the Nurses themselves, is in a forward state of organization, and has been practically opened to the Nursing world."

---

Why does the **Bracher-Patent** Water Condenser give such general satisfaction? Because all impurities are removed and the Apparatus is simple, perfectly automatic, and quite reliable. Price lists post free.—JOHN A. GILBERT & Co., Sole Manufacturers, 4, Mount Pleasant, Gray's Inn Road London, W.C.

---

**The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.**

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)