

Register unless she can give satisfactory proof of having been at least three years engaged in nursing the sick." "*Under whatever auspices the Register is established, established it must be at no distant date.*" . . . "*Time presses, the subject has been too long in abeyance, and the honest and industrious Nurse suffers by competition with the novice and the charlatan.*"

Such, in short, were the views of the Hospitals' Association and its chief workers, upon this subject, at the end of 1887. The secession of influential Nurses, which has been described, made it necessary for its Council to appoint a new Committee, with Dr. STEELE as its Chairman, to carry on the work of Registration which it had commenced. It is clear that considerable difficulty was found in persuading any Hospital Matron, of any standing, to associate herself with this Committee, so finally—months after the Hospitals' Association had issued its scheme—it came to the indisputable conclusion, that "the first step towards a right knowledge of the subject, was to make a formal inquiry into the practice and wishes of the various Nurse Training Schools in London and throughout the country." The Committee, therefore, sent a series of nine questions to "34 establishments in England and Scotland, which profess to educate Nurses." No comment need be made upon the tacit admission thus given, that the Hospitals' Association had previously organized and launched its scheme of Registration without knowledge or information, but particular attention must be drawn to the actual results of this inquiry, because they have since been frequently misquoted. Now, out of the 34 Hospitals applied to, it was confessed by the Hospitals' Association, that only *nineteen* took the trouble to reply to the questions at all, and it was, moreover, admitted that "some of the answers are simply the individual opinions of the matrons, or of medical superintendents, or of some prominent member of the medical staff of the Hospital." In fact, to any unprejudiced mind, it is obvious that the replies which the Association received, were absolutely valueless as authoritative expressions of opinion. Despite this, "rather less than one-half of the

replies" approved of a general system of Registration, while the rest "desire to be let alone." In other words, *nine* Nurse-Training Schools actively considered that Registration was desirable, while ten passively declined to be troubled about the matter. Yet the Hospitals' Association adopted and published a Report, upon these altogether inconclusive replies, to the effect that they proved the impossibility of forming a voluntary Register. Its President, Dr. BRISTOWE, stated that this concluded the connection of the Hospitals' Association with the Registration of Nurses and thus the scheme collapsed.

Early in February, 1888, the National Pension Fund for Nurses was incorporated in the ordinary manner as an Insurance Company, its Articles of Association being signed by Mr. F. C. CARR-GOMM (Chairman of the London Hospital); Mr. PERCIVAL A. NAIRN (Deputy Chairman of the Seamen's Hospital Greenwich); Dr. J. S. BRISTOWE, of St. Thomas's Hospital; Mr. BRYANT, of Guy's, and Mr. BURDETT, of the Stock Exchange.

These Articles contain the following clause (E.) amongst the objects of the Company, the italics being, as before, ours:—"At the instigation of the representatives of the Nurse Training Schools, *or otherwise*, to provide and keep a Register for trained and certificated Nurses, wherein may be entered the qualifications and the other particulars of all Matrons, Sisters, Nurses, and other persons engaged, or desirous of being engaged, in Hospital or other similar work; *to make rules, institute examinations, charge fees*, provide offices, badges, books, and all other things which may be found necessary or desirable for the purpose of opening and keeping of any such Register."

It is impossible not to marvel at the calm audacity with which gentlemen who signed the Articles of Association—and thus sought for, and obtained, legal recognition of their intention to undertake the registration and examination of Nurses—have since then opposed the Royal British Nurses' Association, and denounced to the public the dangers and disadvantages of the scheme they were only waiting their own opportunity to undertake. To make this point quite clear, we need

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