

would rush to be registered, and so secure a *status* which, otherwise, they would never have gained. Most fortunately, the opponents of the Association, by their loud vituperation of the scheme, while advertising it to well trained Nurses, frightened and deterred the *genus* Gamp from obtaining its benefits, and the first edition of the Register, consequently, only contained the names of *eleven* women who had not passed through some period of Hospital work. The following were the influential medical men and well known Matrons who composed the first Registration Board, and all, but the most prejudiced opponents of the Association, were fain to admit that a more representative body could hardly have been selected for the purpose:—

H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE.	Miss ALLEN (City Road Lying-in Hospital).
DR. BUZZARD.	Sister CECILIA (University College).
MR. BRUDENELL CARTER.	Miss CURETON (Addenbrooke's, Cambridge).
DR. SYDNEY COUPLAND.	Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK.
DR. CHAMPNEYS.	Miss FORREST (York County).
MR. DAVIES-COLLEY.	Miss MARION HUMFREY (Birmingham).
MR. CLINTON T. DENT.	Miss HUXLEY (St. Patrick Dun's, Dublin).
SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH.	Miss JONES (Guy's).
SIR JOSEPH FAYRER.	Miss LUMSDEN (Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen).
DR. BEDFORD FENWICK.	Mrs. MESSENGER (York Road, Lying-in-Hospital).
MR. KENDAL FRANKS.	Miss ROGERS (Leicester).
DR. GRIFFITH.	Miss MAUD G. SMITH (Royal Infirmary, Bristol).
DR. PRIESTLEY.	Miss STEWART (St. Bartholomew's).
DR. SAINSBURY.	Miss THOROLD (Middlesex).
MR. WILKINSON.	Miss CATHERINE J. WOOD.

Some seventeen hundred Nurses were enrolled during the year, and the public presentation, early in 1891, to Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN, of the first copy of the first Register of Nurses, marked an epoch in

the history of Nursing. It is needless, however, to add that this result was not achieved without the greatest labour, while many difficulties had to be encountered and overcome. Considering the novelty of the work, the complete lack of organisation in the Nursing world, the nomadic life which so many Nurses lead, and the inability of many of them to understand what information was required from them, the wonder is that so few mistakes were made. Then, besides and beyond the inherent difficulties of its task, the Association had to meet the usual virulent misrepresentation and active opposition on the one side, and passive absence of help on the other. For example, it has been stated that the Board frequently applied for information, concerning applicants for Registration, to the Hospitals at which they had been trained, and either received no reply at all or were informed that the Hospital books contained no information beyond the fact that a salary was paid to a Nurse of the name in question for a certain number of months or years. And here it may be interjected, not unfairly, that the work of the Association has undoubtedly led to a much greater accuracy in detailed statements concerning their employees being kept by all the leading Hospitals in this country than was previously the custom; although, as we shall shortly see, there is still room for further improvement in this particular direction.

There are, however, two examples of the manner in which the Register was attacked which are so typical of the methods of the opposition that they may with advantage be recited here. On May 24th, 1890, the *Hospital* had the following paragraph: "One of the *élite*.—At a recent meeting of the British Nurses' Association it was announced that eight hundred Nurses had applied for registration, and that these were mostly Hospital Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses—in fact, as one of the honorary Secretaries of the Association put it, 'the *élite* of the Nursing profession.' We have often given our opinion as to the quality of Nurses likely to go on this Register; and an important incident with regard to the above phrase has come to our knowledge. We keep at our office, for our private information, a 'black list' of those Nurses to whose

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