

amongst their number, that the first great victory is due; that the State recognition of their calling is only the foundation stone in the erection of the edifice of their profession, and that this fundamental gain entails upon Nurses, as a body, not only high privileges, but very serious responsibilities.

Hitherto disorganised, exploited, defenceless, and defamed, Nurses have had neither professional feeling, nor any opportunity of elevating their calling. We have, therefore, not blamed them when they have hung back during the last five years, although they thus permitted a few of their fellows to bear unaided the full brunt and burden of this great struggle for independence and reform. But now that the battle has been won, they have no excuse for further fear or lethargy. During the last half decade, we have watched with growing admiration the great effects direct or indirect, which have been produced in every part of the country by the action of the Royal British Nurses' Association. The standard of training has been raised throughout the kingdom, and the character of Nursing education greatly elevated and improved. The care bestowed upon the health and comfort of the Nurses is as different to-day from what it was six years ago, as light is from darkness. The moral and material benefits which have accrued to the whole profession from its powerful union, from the establishment of a central body of control, from the institution of Homes of Rest, and benevolent schemes, and of co-operative means for the obtaining of employment, with the consequent increase in the rewards derivable from their work, are almost incalculable, while the high and settled position to which Nursing has now attained must have the most powerful impulsive effect upon the progress of the profession in future.

The Association, and its comparatively few workers, have nobly performed their share—now it is the turn of the Nurses, and we would urge upon them that, for their own sake even more than for that of their calling, they should at once adopt one or other of the only courses open to them. Because

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Nursing has now its public responsibilities as well as its individual privileges, and the Nurse who neglects the former cannot justly complain if, hereafter, she discovers that she has failed to acquire the latter. The first thing then, which it behoves all thoroughly trained Nurses to accomplish, is to make their Register complete in its universality. It should be the aim of every Nurse, who has been well trained, to be distinguished from the quacks and charlatans, who abound in the Nursing world, by enrolling her name on the list, which Sir RICHARD WEBSTER described as "The Chartered Register." Putting aside the striking fact of which we are constantly hearing, that medical men, especially in the country, are refusing to employ Nurses who are not registered—and that, therefore, it is becoming a matter of urgent necessity to Nurses that their names shall appear on the only authoritative roll of their profession—we are glad to observe the increasing comprehension evinced by the Nurses themselves that unless they are on the Register and belong to the Royal Chartered Corporation they cannot attain to the highest standing in the Nursing world. But beyond this benefit to themselves, every individual Nurse owes it as a great debt to all other Nurses that she should do all in her power to bring about Nursing reforms, and to raise the status of her fellow-workers. It is, therefore, her duty to join the Chartered Corporation herself—to advance its work to the utmost of her ability, and to persuade all the Nurses that she knows to follow her example.

#### BABY FARMING.

FROM time to time there come to light shocking stories of neglected and murdered babies, whom it is no one's interest or pleasure to keep alive or take care of; and although an enlightened public conscience and a better state of law have done much to mitigate what was once an almost untouched evil, there yet remains a great deal to be done on behalf of that most helpless portion of the community—an unwanted baby. It was not long ago that a baby changed hands no less than four times, and was, eventually, the subject of a coroner's inquest; and now, in Hereford, we have a case of two tiny infants brought by "an er woman who gave no name, but said her

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