

THE following letter appeared lately in the *Times*, from Miss TWINING, who has probably done more than anyone to bring about reforms in the Nursing in Poor Law Infirmaries:—

"Sir,—I venture to ask once more for your powerful support, so often granted to the subject of reform in the nursing of the helpless and destitute sick poor. As long ago as 1858 you admitted a letter from me on 'Nurses in Workhouses,' who were at that time entirely taken from the ranks of the pauper inmates, those who were physically capable of performing the work being selected, without regard to any further qualifications. This, almost the first notice of the subject, 35 years ago, was the beginning of an interest which has never since been allowed to cease, and I now ask you to add one more favour by noticing the memorial which has just been sent by our 'Association for Promoting Trained Nursing in Workhouse Infirmaries' to the president of the Local Government Board, in which we express our conviction of the need of still further improvements, notwithstanding the great advance that has been made in the last 30 years. Much yet remains to be done before the work of reform is complete, but we have every hope that we shall ere long see our desires carried out. The evils have been great and numerous in the past, but they disappear before enlightenment and humanity. Publicity alone is needed to insure the accomplishment of our aims, supported as we are by the highest authorities of the medical profession, as well as by all who are acquainted with the subject. Our Royal patroness and president endorse our convictions, which, we believe, cannot be controverted or denied. Women can be found for this work, and are willing to be trained for it. The means alone are wanted to meet all our needs, and, when they are once known and realized, we believe that they will be supplied.—I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

LOUISA TWINING."

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COLONEL GILDEA has done good service to the public, by sending the following letter to the *Morning Post*. Such false and misleading statements have been made for years past by the opponents of the R.B.N.A., that the public have been, as was doubtless intended, thoroughly confused on the subject. But Truth is great and will prevail in the long run, and so the Association has really benefited in many ways by the opposition to which it has been exposed. Her Royal Highness puts the matter in a nutshell, and proves once more how thoroughly she understands the whole question:—

I have asked and obtained permission from Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein to make use of the following extract from a private letter I have received from Her Royal Highness, which I venture to think will remove in a great measure, if not altogether, the erroneous misapprehension which exists as to the intentions of the above Association, of which Her Royal Highness is President, and for which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, on the recommendation of her Privy Council, to grant a Royal Charter.—Yours, &c.,

JAMES GILDEA, Colonel.

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"The Royal British Nurses' Association neither trains certificates, nor employs Nurses. It deals with them as individuals only without reference to their place of training, except in so far as it applies to those Institutions for testimony as to efficiency, personal fitness, and good character. Having done so much it makes a record of the training of the Nurses inscribed on its register or list, for the convenience and protection of the public and the medical profession. Its procedure is founded, as nearly as circumstances permit, on that of the General Council of Medical Registration, and, such being the case, it can no more interfere with the constitution and internal arrangements of those training and Nurse-employing Institutions than the Council of Medical Registration interferes with the degree-bestowing Universities and the various colleges of physicians and surgeons. Neither does the Association, in so working, aim at affiliation, or in any way superseding existing Nurse-training and Nurse-employing Institutions; on the contrary, any such action would be altogether beyond the sphere of its actions and unwarranted by the powers about to be conferred, or rather powers conferred, by the Royal Charter. Of the twelve Nurse-training Hospitals in London, either the matron or one or more of the medical officers of the following Institutions are members of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association—viz., St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, University College, St. Mary's (Paddington), Middlesex, Charing Cross, King's College, the Royal Free, St. George's (Kensington Infirmary, Victoria Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Chelsea Infirmary). The officials of the leading Hospitals all over the British Empire are also members of the Association. Forgive me for writing you all this, but I wanted to show you how really unfounded, if I may use the term, are the fears and the opposition to my Association. It interferes with no one, or with any Institution. It is a large body formed for the mutual protection and help of Nurses, as well as for the protection of the public and the assistance of the medical profession. I have written at some length, as I thought the information might be of use to you and might help you to contradict any false impressions as to the work and aim of the Association. It has ever been my wish from the first to work in harmony with all those interested in the training of Nurses; but I have every reason to believe that much of the opposition which I have encountered has been based on misapprehension, which I trust will now be dispelled."

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IN continuation of the rules recently promulgated in connection with the resignation of their appointments by ladies of the Indian Nursing Service, the Government of India has decided that in the cases in which lady Nurses voluntarily resign their appointments, and also in the cases in which their services may be dispensed with by Government, the date from which the prescribed period of six months' notice should commence to run, shall be the date of the receipt of such notice by the Government of India, or by the lady Nurses, as the case may be. With regard to the lady Nurse who may desire to resign the Indian Nursing Service without giving six months' notice, the for-

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