

alike of Nurses and the public. But the Association has been harrassed with enemies, and it has only been after five years' continual defence against continual attacks that the Association has at last achieved a position—by the conferment of a Royal Charter of Incorporation from Her Majesty the Queen—in which it is free from the slings and arrows of the adversary.”

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“It is a statement of only the bare truth to say that the Association would not to-day enjoy its coign of vantage, would not to-day be the actual power for good to all women engaged in Nursing, had not the efforts of the many able men and women who form the Association been directed and supported by the Princess Christian. The devotion to the Society's welfare which its Royal President has displayed during the period of opposition and mis-representation; Her Royal Highness's unswerving staunchness to what she felt to be the right cause, notwithstanding the many influences that were brought to bear upon her from the opposite side; the Princess's advocacy of the Society's claims to a Royal Charter—all these are public services of a kind which it is impossible to estimate at their full value.”

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“Princess Christian being then in every sense the leader of this important movement, we have much pleasure in bringing before our readers some of the salient points of the subject, and also what we have reason to believe represents Her Royal Highness's views concerning the future work of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and more particularly at this moment, when the Association, possessed of its Charter of Incorporation, is on the eve of a new chapter in its history.”

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“It is quite impossible to sufficiently admire the judgment and tact which are the distinguishing characteristics of the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association. These qualities must account in great measure for the Association's success. It has been said, by one who has had abundant opportunities of judging, that ‘the Princess understands the professional aspects of Nursing much better than the majority of those who now control the education of Nurses, because she has devoted both time and thought to the subject’—a remark which expresses concisely the enormous advantages which must accrue to professional women from the guidance of a Royal lady who understands *de fond en comble* the particular needs of their profession.”

The “NURSING RECORD” has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work

THE edifying discussion still continues, concerning the London Hospital, in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and I have read with very great interest the article entitled “Hospital Nursing,” by Mrs. ROBERT HUNTER, which appeared on the 4th inst. In it she staunchly sticks to her guns concerning the mismanagement in the Nursing Department, and narrates the following disastrous consequences:—

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“On one occasion a Nurse of a year's experience had charge of a ward containing thirty-nine patients (including extra beds). She had only one Probationer with short experience to assist her. ‘It was impossible,’ to quote her own words, ‘to do one's duty to the patients with this force—to attend to all the serious cases at once.’ A patient had been ordered a vapour bath; the assistant mistook the patient for whom it had been ordered, put the wrong man in the bath, and he died there. At another time, I am told, a single Nurse had charge during the night of twenty patients; one of them had just passed through so serious an operation that one would have expected she would have been placed in charge of a special Nurse. The time came for beginning the usual washing of the patients and their preparation for breakfast. All this work, as well as the cooking of the breakfast and washing up of the breakfast things, is in the London Hospital done by the night Nurses before seven o'clock in the morning. After the Nurse had been thus engaged some little time she returned to look at the patient alluded to. She found her dying from hæmorrhage which had set in since the Nurse last saw her. On another occasion a Nurse had sole charge of twenty patients in a male erysipelas ward. While she was engaged at the other end of the ward the patient nearest the door escaped from his bed unnoticed. As soon as the Nurse saw the empty bed she fled in terror in search of her patient, of course leaving the other nineteen sick people absolutely alone. She was away from her ward about twenty minutes, aided in her search in garden and corridors by the porter. It was not until about an hour afterwards that the patient was found. He had been wandering with bare feet and no other clothing than his nightshirt in cold corridors, and was tearing round and round a room in raving delirium, trying to find his way out. On yet another occasion when a Nurse was in sole charge of a ward, one of the patients was a lunatic, who had endeavoured to commit suicide by cutting her throat. The patient had a fit, and the Nurse was obliged to send one of the more convalescent of the patients to summon assistance. The assistance came in the shape of an inexperienced Probationer who was unable to be of any service, and she was sent to summon further aid, the Nurse meanwhile being again left single-handed. Only a short time ago we were startled by reading in the papers that a woman had been killed in the wards because a friend gave her to drink, instead of water, carbolic acid which was standing in an open vessel conveniently at hand. This should surely not have been possible, had there been sufficient supervision.”

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“My experience in connection with the London Hospital has convinced me of the futility of hoping for the reformation of abuses from within, unless considerable pressure from outside is brought to bear. The managing committee of the Hospital consists generally of non-professional men, absolutely ignorant of the needs and the work-

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