

sion. Where, a short decade ago, the heads of our Nursing schools were unknown to one another, even by name, to-day we have Associations of Matrons in England and America devoting much time and thought to the important questions of Nurse training and efficient Nursing of the sick. And it is an undeniable fact that the Royal British Nurses' Association—chequered as has been its career—has been the pioneer of all this impulse for reform; an Association which owes its existence to the inspiration of the women it is now proposed to remove from its Council, and its past success largely to their courage and devotion.

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We are informed that a meeting of several Matrons of the Metropolitan Nurse Training Schools who opposed the granting of a Charter of Incorporation to the Royal British Nurses' Association has been lately convened at the house of a medical member of the Executive Committee, at which they were requested to join the Association. We are not surprised to learn that at this particular crisis all those ladies present refused to do so, and we are of opinion that nothing could have been more ill advised than to make such a suggestion to these ladies. It is a further regrettable proof of how entirely out of touch with nursing thought and sentiment is the present policy.

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The Matrons of the opposing Nurse Training Schools have had seats *ex-officio* on the Council and Executive Committee (subject to their consent to act) from the inception of the Association, a position which their colleagues recognised from the first as their *right*, and their acceptance of which would have doubtless brought increased prestige and influence to the Association. But it has also been fully recognised by their colleagues that these ladies—occupying as they do some of the most honourable and responsible positions which women can fill—have acted, as have the founders of the Association, from conscientious conviction, and that their actions have not been influenced by *personal* motives. It is therefore both useless and impolitic to press them to support an Association of whose principles and work they disapprove.

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The women who eight years ago set themselves the Herculean task of evolving, from the chaotic body of workers known as sick Nurses, a body of professional women with a distinctly defined standard of training, education, certification, and legal registration, fully realised the magnitude of the task, and were quite prepared for the inevitable misconception, mis-

representation, and opposition to their great work which has been, and ever will be, the result of disinterested attempts at reform. But they were also well aware that in these progressive days, with the true interest of their fellow workers at heart, and the power of union, their self-imposed task would certainly be accomplished *in time*.

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And speaking as a Nurse to Nurses, we would say most earnestly, at this painful crisis in our Association's history, Have patience—have courage. Your cause is righteous; it is being borne along on the flood of the great irresistible force of Justice—justice to yourselves as *women*, with equality of human rights (if not yet equal before the law) in the body politic; justice to the sick, rich and poor, whose rights it is your privilege and *duty* to claim, and, if needs be, to suffer in obtaining.

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THE first batch of probationers, of St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax, eight in number, have completed their three years' course of instruction at this Poor Law Institution. The Lady Superintendent, Miss Wilkie, has given full courses in ward Nursing, anatomy and physiology, and the medical officer, Dr. Dolan, J.P., has supplemented these lectures by special classes devoted to anatomy, physiology, general medicine, surgery and hygiene. The experiment at Halifax has been most successful, resulting in a general elevation of the tone amongst the sick, whilst the advantages have been signally marked in a reduced mortality.

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May 29th, first written examination for probationers, St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax:—

- (1) Mention the principal bones in the body, giving technical names.
- (2) Describe the circulation of the blood.
- (3) Give normal pulse rate, temperature and respiration.
- (4) What is a fracture? Mention varieties; give general treatment.
- (5) Mention the chief disinfectants. What should a Nurse do to prevent sepsis in a wound?
- (6) Give list of zymotic diseases. What precautions should a Nurse take to prevent the spread of infection?
- (7) Point out the difference between pneumonia, bronchitis and phthisis pulmonalis. What should a Nurse do for each disease?
- (8) Mention the usual forms of hæmorrhage and the first treatment for each form.

NURSES' WATCHES ALTERED to show SECONDS, from 8s. 6d. This includes new seconds' dial and seconds' hand, and the necessary mechanical alterations. Nurses' Silver Keyless Watches with seconds' hand, £2 10s. SAMUEL STANLEY, 48, MORTIMER STREET, W. (Midway between Middlesex Hospital and Cavendish Square.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)