

thirty years perhaps the question might be ready for solution. Events, however, moved on somewhat more rapidly. The British Nurses' Association very wisely determined to make a beginning, and commenced to enrol the names of trained Nurses and to publish a yearly Register. In 1893, the benefits of the system were already so marked that the Association was able to obtain a judgment from the Privy Council that its work was of public benefit and utility, and a Royal Charter was granted to the Association despite the most determined opposition. The principle of Registration of Nurses has, therefore, been publicly recognised, and the events of the last three years, which have nearly intervened since the granting of the Charter, have only tended to confirm the feeling of the medical profession, as well as that of trained Nurses, that the work of Registration requires to be placed upon a stronger and more national basis than it is at present. The Resolution which was unanimously passed at the last Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association is in the highest degree significant of medical opinion on this matter.

It will be remembered that, at the meeting in question, Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK proposed—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed providing for the registration and education of medical, surgical and obstetric Nurses; and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider this matter and to take such measures as may seem to them to be advisable to obtain such legislation." In addition to this—as we have previously pointed out in these columns—the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association have given their adherence to the same principle, and we are informed that its Council are now engaged in considering the details of a draft Bill for the purpose of effecting such legislation. The Council of the British Medical Association referred the Resolution, passed at the Annual Meeting, to its Parliamentary Bills' Committee, and that Committee has wisely convened a Conference of all who are interested in the subject. It is to be hoped that this meeting will be largely and influentially attended, and that the opinions of those present will be freely expressed.

It is felt by many Nurses that the time has

arrived when the national work of their Education and Registration must be confided to a State-appointed body. The importance of the work to every one concerned is too great for it to remain, indefinitely, in private hands. We speak from full knowledge when we mention the fact that those who founded the Royal British Nurses' Association foresaw and foretold, from the first, the necessity of this work passing from the control of the Association into the authority of a body appointed by Parliament, as soon as the wisdom, the usefulness and the necessity of the work had been practically demonstrated. In some evidence which we gave before a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1890, we said in relation to this matter:—"An Act of Parliament would probably appoint a registration board, composed of the leaders of the medical profession who are interested in Nursing, and of hospital matrons with great experience." And again, we ventured to predict to their lordships, that the grant of a Royal Charter to the Royal British Nurses' Association, "would give a strong basis for improvement and future Parliamentary action." It is, therefore, with special satisfaction that we observe the fulfilment of our anticipations, and at so much earlier a date than we had expected.

There are many, amongst the authorities of hospitals, who have opposed the Association strongly and earnestly, and we consider from most conscientious motives, believing that the principle of permitting a great national work, such as the Registration of Nurses, to be entrusted to a private body was a dangerous precedent. They now have the opportunity of uniting with those who desire Registration as a measure of protection to the public, and with those who desire Registration for its benefits to the medical and Nursing professions, and thus assisting the passage of legislation, and the transfer of the work into the hands of a State-appointed body. It is quite needless now, of course, to argue, as we were compelled to argue some years ago, that the Registration of Nurses is necessary. The principle is now fully admitted, and only one great detail presses for solution. Is the Registration of Nurses to be committed by Parliament to the hands of the Royal British Nurses' Association, or is it to be entrusted to a State-constituted Council? There are no other alternatives. Legislation is imminent, and the Conference next week may do much

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