

tation of the profession on that body. Until now, two eminent consultants have occupied two out of the three seats on the Council allotted to the Direct Representatives of the profession in England and Wales; but, inasmuch as the great majority of medical men are general practitioners, whereas the General Medical Council is almost entirely composed of consultants, as representatives thereon of the various Universities and medical Corporations, the justice of the demand of the majority of the profession for larger representation must be regarded as beyond dispute. But it appeared, three years ago, to be a mere fanciful dream that the aspirations of the reformers could be effected. However, by the energy and tact of a few medical men, the Practitioners' Association rapidly advanced in numbers and influence; and last summer, when the election to the General Council this year, began to be considered, the Association felt strong enough to boldly nominate three gentlemen as candidates for election as Direct Representatives of the whole profession. In circular letters, addressed to the profession by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, the President of the Association, the claims of Mr. George Brown of London, Mr. George Jackson of Plymouth, and Dr. Rentoul of Liverpool, the three candidates in question, were strongly urged. The election has been characterised by a considerable amount of somewhat acrid controversy, but it has been generally acknowledged that the Practitioners' Association has throughout maintained a most dignified attitude. It did not express any partisan feeling concerning the other candidates for election, but frankly acknowledged the excellent qualifications possessed by all those gentlemen, and this conduct contrasted forcibly with that adopted by other bodies, and even by one journal. Amongst the other seven candidates, Dr. Glover was the only one who had already been a member of the Medical Council; he having been chosen as a Direct Representative at both the previous elections, and, on the last occasion, having been elected at the head of the poll. It is a curious fact that to a large extent the present election has turned upon the question of the registration of Midwives. Dr. Glover, Dr. Woodcock and another candidate apparently are in favour of that scheme, while all the other candidates were strongly opposed to it. The result therefore has been watched for with the greatest curiosity, and it is a fact,

the significance of which cannot be minimised, that Dr. Glover has only succeeded in retaining his seat, while Dr. Rentoul and Mr. Brown, the active opponents of the measure, have been elected by a large majority of votes. We have the pleasure to give the official figures in another column, and it will be observed that while Drs. Rentoul and Brown, were elected, the third candidate of the Medical Practitioners' Association, Mr. George Jackson heads the list of the unsuccessful candidates.

The first lesson, therefore, which the election teaches is the immense power of united action. It was widely believed until the very last that the three candidates supported by the Medical Defence Union, namely, Drs. Glover, Woodcock, and Drage would have been elected; and that, at any rate, the sentiment felt for the old representative, Dr. Glover, would have been sufficient to carry him to the top of the poll. But it is evident that the organisation and strength of the Medical Practitioners' Association must be excellent, as proved by their success in obtaining the election of two out of their three candidates, and in placing the third within so short a distance of victory.

The lesson should not be lost upon Nurses, as it will, undoubtedly, not be lost upon medical men; for the old truth that real strength can alone be attained by union is once more exemplified. If Nurses desire to achieve, in the future, reforms for their profession or even to retain the important position which it has already gained, they must unite and co-operate to secure the desired end.

The next lesson which this victory points, in unmistakeable fashion, is that the medical profession are determined not to sanction the Registration of Midwives as independent practitioners, and we understand that an authoritative expression of their decision will shortly be given. We cordially congratulate the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, and Drs. Rentoul and Mr. George Brown upon their success; and Mr. George Jackson also, upon the excellent fight which he has made; and we would add that we hope sincerely that the latter gentleman will at the next election achieve the success which he has so thoroughly deserved. We have the greater pleasure in congratulating the Association because we gratefully remember that it was the only medical body which assisted Nurses to win their Charter.

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