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has made in the past to nursing reform. As we have already shown, this Conference is the natural outcome of the movement which has been in progress for more than ten years past. Trained nurses have been drawn together by the existence of those great economic laws which, at all ages, and amongst all nations, have compelled those engaged in the same occupation to unite together for mutual assistance and for the furtherence of their common objects. Eleven years ago, when we inaugurated the Royal British Nurses' Association, we expressed our belief that the time had arrived for trained nurses to take this step, and that, in this country, trained nurses were ready to do so. The steady success of the Association until it gained its Royal Charter—achieved under the direction and control of leading hospital matrons—proved the accuracy of that opinion. And this was by no means disproved



