

appears to be our duty to encourage all efforts now being made to raise that now prevailing in asylums for the insane. Much has been already done in this direction and more good work is going forward. My own opinion is that such nurses as have passed the examination of the Medico-Psychological Association are qualified to offer themselves for registration in our Association, and that it would be becoming in us to accept them when duly recommended. Those who know best what their training and qualities are, and who have the highest interests of our Association, and of nursing in general, at heart, are, I know, also of this opinion. I trust therefore that in the directions I have mentioned our Association may during this year make a solid advance and make full use of its capacities and opportunities."

The dangers, then, both to the public and to the nursing profession, involved in the registration of asylum attendants as trained nurses, are again before us. The position which we assumed three years ago we hold as firmly today. We assert, without any fear of contradiction, that the vast majority of asylum attendants, whatever may be their own qualifications to attend upon the insane, have not received any adequate training in ordinary medical and surgical nursing. To term such untrained persons, therefore, "thoroughly trained nurses" is obviously inaccurate and misleading. To describe such persons as "thoroughly trained nurses" on the official list of nurses, maintained under the powers of a Royal Charter, would simply result in deceiving the public as to the real status of these persons; and would thus render the Register of the Association a danger to the unwary instead of a public protection. The only argument which has been advanced in favour of this proposal is that it might produce a considerable income in Registration fees for the Association. We doubt this, because we have excellent reasons for believing that asylum attendants would prefer to be registered by their own Association rather than by any outside body. But, in any case, we have no hesitation in saying that the Association would adopt a most indefensible position if it placed untrained men and women on the list of trained nurses, for any pecuniary reasons whatsoever.

The public meeting, held on January the 7th, 1897, to consider this question, passed the following Resolution: "That this meeting condemns the suggestion accepted by the

General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association to admit to membership, and to place upon the Register of trained nurses, asylum attendants who have not been trained in general hospitals, and who do not conform to the regulations for membership and registration. And this meeting considers that such a course would be both injurious to the nursing profession and dangerous and misleading to the public."

That Resolution was re-echoed throughout the country, and the proposals in question aroused very considerable popular feeling against all who supported them. We confidently predict that Sir Dyce Duckworth and his friends will stir up a strong feeling of public resentment against themselves if they again attempt to carry into effect such a dangerous and misleading measure.

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### Annotations.

#### A MISTAKEN IDEA.

THERE is a report which is being widely circulated in daily and provincial papers that there is a need of many more candidates for the ranks of the nursing profession. We think that this is a mistake, and indeed there would seem to be a greater danger of overcrowding. Hundreds of certificated nurses are turned out from our training schools every year; the ranks of private nurses are becoming more and more congested, and the difficulty of finding work for all these fully qualified women seems to be one which will have to be faced shortly.

The report seems to have gained credence owing to the difficulty experienced by many Boards of Guardians in obtaining suitable nurses, although they offer fairly good salaries. But, in our opinion, the reason for this is not the lack of nurses, but the conditions under which they would have to work. We do not think that in infirmaries where the reputation of the training school is well established, this difficulty will be found to exist, but, there is no doubt, that in institutions which have until recently been nursed mainly by paupers, the arrangements for the nurses, both as regards their work and their personal comfort are such that well-trained nurses will not accept these posts. We think the suggestion that there should be a conference of Poor Law Guardians to consider what steps should be taken to meet the difficulty is an admirable one, and although some Boards of Guardians, who are happily circumstanced may not see the necessity for it,

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