

Settlement for old members whose savings are too scanty to enable them to live in comfort without charitable aid, and we are pleased to observe that those few ladies who were present at a meeting in support of the scheme, were adverse to a public appeal for money, and desired that the movement should be of a spontaneous character. This is the right spirit by which an association of professional women—many of them earning good incomes—should be inspired, and on these lines generous aid may be given by the more fortunate members to those of their colleagues who, perhaps by no fault of their own, have been less fortunate in life's struggle. But we warn members of the R.B.N.A. that smoking concerts and ballet dancing, in financial aid of the Association, cannot but depreciate the whole nursing community in the eyes of the public, and that should Mr. Fardon and his colleagues again attempt to drag the nursing profession through the mire, a widely signed public protest will be made by nurses of repute, who bitterly resent the low standard of professional ethics which have been forced upon nurses dependent upon the Hon. Officers for their daily bread.

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WE are glad to see that the Hon. Officers are not receiving support from those nurses interested in this new scheme, in their policy of cadge.

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THE Clerk to the St. Austell Guardians recently reported that there was only one applicant for the vacant post of night nurse. This was from a widow who, for the past twelve months, had been night nurse at Bedford, with 100 persons under her charge. She was not a certificated nurse, but sent good testimonials. A member of the Board said he "remembered the woman quite well, they had her as a servant for a time, and she was so kind-hearted that she would not have papers to catch the flies with. He thought she would prove a most suitable nurse." The Chairman showed himself more practical when he remarked that he feared the inmates would not like to have flies about. However, this kind-hearted person was unanimously appointed.

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MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK has an exhaustive article in the January number of the *American Outlook*, on the "Evolution of the Trained Nurse," which she ends with the following remarks.

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"IT is in the United States of America that the greatest progress in the organization of nurses has been attained. The progression of your spacious Republic has a natural impetus from free competition, untrammelled by class patronage and

royal favour, and presumably your laws are made for the time and the people, and not enforced by the prejudice of precedent. In consequence, your development is natural and healthy; our progress is stunted or forced. You sprout up fresh and free in the open, and we are either nipped in the bud or transplanted to gasp under glass. In fact, your American women 'do' for themselves; we Britishers are 'done for.' We have many perfect nursing machines, but as a professional body our evolution has scarcely begun, although individual nurses have striven passionately—perhaps too passionately—to effect some measure of professional organization."

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"IT was in the year 1887 that I called together a small body of hospital matrons in London, and suggested the formation of a union to be termed the British Nurses' Association, which should seek to obtain a royal charter in order to weld nurses together into a corporate body, with powers of self-discipline and mutual assistance; that a register of trained nurses should be compiled and published, and that, in time, an Act of Parliament to legalize and nationalize this system should be obtained. By this means a more efficient standard of education would be attainable, and stricter discipline and control would be exercised over the profession as a whole, and the public would be enabled to distinguish between the trained and the untrained woman."

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"IT is a painful fact that these suggestions for the protection of the trained nurse and the public met with bitter opposition upon the part of interested persons. Nurse sweating was then in its zenith; many of our hospitals sent out for high fees semi-trained probationers as 'trained nurses,' paying the probationers infinitesimal salaries, and reaping an abundant harvest from this commercial transaction. Such institutions naturally objected to the establishment of a public register, on which the names of their untrained workers would not appear. The authorities of other institutions were fearful of any infringement of or interference with their absolute power over their employees, and these poor parasites were powerless."

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"NEVERTHELESS, the pioneers of nursing reform gained an important privilege in 1893. A royal charter was granted incorporating the Royal British Nurses' Association, which conferred liberal powers of self-government upon trained nurses. Naturally, the women who had worked for and won the charter desired to make use of its powers, but they found themselves face to face with a new difficulty. The nurses had given liberal representation to medical men on the

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