

Sick." The last, of course, includes the War Office. It was strongly urged by the reader of the paper, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, late Superintendent of the Gordon House Home Hospital, that nursing, being specially women's work, the direction of it as well as the actual performance of the detailed duties, should be under the control of women to some extent. The notion of placing women in a position of authority in a Government department will, doubtless, strike many of the pundits of the official world as rank folly or worse. The opposition to women doing honorary work is intensified when the question is of a paid office; and the objection to replace Mrs. Tennant by another Head Factory Inspector of the same sex, even at the moment when it was warmly admitted that she had been "a most valuable public servant," and the relegation of her successors to the position of subsidiary and assistant Inspectors only, is an indication of the small likelihood of any Government exclusively elected by men's votes complying with the request of the Matrons' Council, and establishing a Government department for nursing, with women officials in control of it."

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"THE other question raised in the Conference is one that more directly affects the public. It is undoubted that it would be a public advantage to have a printed and readily accessible list of trained nurses, their certificates and addresses, similar to that which we have now of doctors in *The Medical Register*. At present, any woman who pleases may describe herself as a nurse, or even as a "trained" nurse. Not only is there no one to say her nay, but the public have no means of ascertaining if she be really trained and qualified or not. Since life and future health may hang on the reality of a nurse's competence for the duties that she professes to understand, it would clearly be an advantage to have an accessible list of the qualified and their residences, in order to at once detect a suspected impostor and pretender. This reform is one that will in time, no doubt, be secured by the Matrons' Council.

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"A Midwives' Register of that same kind is even more needful. But, unhappily, the effort to secure such a register, so as to enable the public to discriminate between the trained and competent worker and the ignorant and incompetent, has been allowed to degenerate into an effort to pass a Bill through Parliament so insulting, so restrictive, and so injurious to this class of workers, as to effectually prevent its passing. The Midwives' Bill, as introduced,

would prohibit women of the educated and capable class that ought to take up the work, from entering on or continuing in it; their position would be an impossible one. This Bill, not to "register" midwives and their qualifications, but to compel them to obtain an annual "licence," and to place them at the mercy of their men-professional rivals, has been "talked" out of the House of Commons. Before it is re-introduced, it is to be hoped that ladies promoting it will find a little consideration for the women whom they are proposing to deal with, and will also see to making education in this womanly art accessible, rather than to practically closing it to capable, high-minded workers."

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As all the world knows, the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded by nurses in 1887, to obtain legal status for trained nurses, and it is one of the most impudent scandals of modern times that, upon the initiative of Mr. Fardon, the Medical Hon. Secretary, and his medical colleagues at the Middlesex Hospital, and largely supported by the vote of the nurses of that institution, the whole principle of State Registration has been denied by the clique in power in the Association.

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WE narrow down this betrayal of the interests of the nursing profession to Mr. Fardon and his paid subordinates, because we believe the large majority of nurse members, even of the effete R.B.N.A., would still support the *principle* of State protection and control for themselves, if they were not effectually gagged by Mr. Fardon's nominees on the Executive Committee and on the General Council. Be this as it may, Mr. Fardon and his fellow Hon. Officers have not only voted against State Registration for nurses, but have actually suppressed the Register of Trained Nurses of the R.B.N.A., although they still persuade ignorant nurses to pay a fee of *one guinea for Registration*!! and have substituted for it a publication called *The Roll of Members*, in which are very prominently set forth, in a separate list, the *names and addresses* of the *medical members*, many of whom are men who can be relied upon to come up at general meetings and terrorise the nurse-members, should occasion require. This list is as shameless a piece of advertising as could be well imagined, and we recommend its perusal to the General Medical Council when they can spare time from dealing with the "unprofessional conduct" of poor general practitioners who venture on various forms of questionable advertising to make known their professional skill and infallibility to the world in general.

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