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**Editorial.**

**LEGAL STATUS FOR NURSES.**

IN another column we publish the decision arrived at by the Matrons' Council at its meeting last week that the time has now come for the formation of an Association having for its exclusive object the State Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament. After due discussion and consideration it appeared to the Matrons' Council that confusion of issues is less likely to arise in dealing with this important matter if an Association is formed with this one object. The field for such a Society is quite clear, for the Medical Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Mr. Edward A. Fardon, of the Middlesex Hospital, and Miss H. Wedgwood, the delegate of the Association to the Conference convened in 1896 by the British Medical Association voted against the fundamental principle of the Association when they voted for a Resolution:—

"That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient *in principle*, and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit."

We must, therefore, conclude that, though these officers voted without a mandate from the

Association, yet that its present members, if they are acquainted with the facts of the case, which we very much doubt, approve of their action, as both still remain in office. At any rate, it is certain that there can be no trifling with so vital a principle, and those members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who keep Mr. Fardon in office must not be surprised if the world in general supposes that they approve the action by which he betrayed the professional interests of the Nurses' Association of which he is an Hon. Officer.

What is needed at the present time is a Society of women who are willing to come out into the open on the Registration question. It may be years before we obtain legal status, but we must have our organization ready so that we may be ripe for concerted action when the psychological moment arrives. Moreover, it is proposed that this new Society shall be an educational one. There are numbers of nurses even now who do not understand the Registration question, or the great benefits which would accrue to themselves and the public from a Registration Act. Again, the public while warmly objecting to the present unsatisfactory conditions under which they are without assurance that a nurse,

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