

been deluded and hoodwinked into the idea that the statement is not true? We fear that they must have been. Knowing what we do of the falsehoods promulgated on the subject, we quite believe it possible. Let us, therefore, tell them the truth, and then let them sift the matter for themselves, and we are convinced what the result will be.

What, then, does Registration of Nurses imply, and why all this excitement for and against it? Is it wanted by the public? Is it demanded by Nurses? Is it approved of by Medical men and the Medical press? This Registration means the entering upon an alphabetical list of the names of those women who have proved that they are qualified by character, skill, and knowledge to tend the sick efficiently, and the removal therefrom of the names of those who have proved themselves to be unworthy of confidence as Trained Nurses. Nothing more—nothing less. Will the Duke of Westminster, who advocates the Registration of Plumbers, say that it is not, at least, equally essential to know who is, and who is not, a skilled Nurse?

But is Registration of Nurses advisable? The weighty words of the leading Medical journal, the *Lancet*, of July 6th, are a sufficient answer:—

“There is at present no means of preventing any woman, however ignorant of the duties or responsibilities of Nursing she may be, from proclaiming herself to be a Trained Nurse, and obtaining employment as such, to the discomfort, if not the danger, of the patient, and to the frustration of the best efforts of the medical attendant. There is at present no check against any certificated Nurse who may prove herself unworthy of trust, or has been even convicted of crime, from continuing to obtain employment upon her certificate of professional knowledge.”

If this is true—and we presume no one will even attempt to deny it—is it necessary to ask whether a remedy is not urgently required? or will anyone gravely assert that the public is to continue to be victimised. The opponents of this scheme, as we have frequently said, hold opinions which cannot logically be defended even by themselves, and which certainly will be quietly ignored and over-ridden by the public at large.

Protection for the sick is needed, and every month as the facts become more plain, expression of the need will be made with increasing strength, until in the near future it is gained. Registration of Nurses is wanted then by the public. But how about the “widespread professional demand”?

Seventeen months ago the British Nurses' Association was formed for the express purpose of obtaining the enforcement of Legal Registration.

In these few months two thousand five hundred Nurses—that is to say one quarter of the number estimated to be at work in the United Kingdom—have joined the Association and subscribed to its funds to gain this object. This number includes the Matrons of half the large Hospitals in the country, and most certainly a great proportion of the best workers in the calling. Is further proof required of professional feeling? Then we call attention to the fact that the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the President of the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom have constantly and strongly supported the scheme, and both raised their voices in its favour last week at the Mansion House.

Sir Henry Acland, who also spoke at this Meeting, proposed the Registration of Nurses fifteen years ago, and still believes in its efficacy. As with the leaders, so with medical men all over England. We have reported in these columns the proceedings at more than twenty meetings held in large provincial towns—north, south, east, and west. Each was largely attended by the leading Doctors of the town and district, and at each the scheme of Registration was discussed and earnestly and unanimously approved.

Let there be no mistake about this matter. London is not England, any more than the authorities of the Nurse-training schools represent London. The difficulty of getting good Nurses and of discriminating between good and bad is sufficiently great in London. It is intensified a hundred-fold in provincial towns and country districts; and the demand from these parts for some safeguards against bad or ignorant Nurses, therefore, is, to our own knowledge, far greater than is perhaps known to those whose purview is bounded by the four walls of the Institution over which they rule. So there is a widespread professional demand for Registration, and those who are surprised at the statement, have either been completely misinformed as to the state of affairs, or have closed their eyes wilfully to the most patent facts.

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THERE is no disputing the right.—*Bosquet*.

AS OTHERS SEE US.—We have just received this excellent publication. In a very short time it has reached a point of success which must be most satisfactory to the proprietors. The paper is one which occupies a field of its own, and is the natural outcome of public requirements. With the increasing interest manifested by all classes in Nursing and Nurses, the *Nursing Record* cannot fail to obtain a wide circulation, and to become a very influential organ.—*Invention*.

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