

supporting the advance that has been already made, and encouraged by such union and co-operation, I fully believe the progress will be greatly increased in the future. Happily the future of such a good and needful work is now assured. The signs of the future are so obvious that he who runs may read them. The kind of nursing that was once endured in our midst is no longer possible. The old Hospital Nurse, as she was termed, and who has been so skilfully treated by the humourist, can no longer be found in our midst. These Nurses have now been superseded by others, who assuredly will be offered their tribute in pages which in the future will describe the manners and the customs and the life of our time. (Cheers.) The advance that has been made is shown too in another way—viz., by the position and education of those who now so freely join the ranks of our Nurses; in every sense gentlewomen are becoming Nurses. And last, but assuredly not least, that the service is a worthy one is shown by the fact that Her Majesty looks with favour upon it. To-day, moreover, we rejoice in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, who presides over our Association of Nurses, and who, I may be allowed to say, is pleased to take a deep interest in its work. (Cheers.)

SIR CRICHTON BROWNE said: When driving on one of my official rounds in a suburb of Birmingham, on an early day last May, when the sunshine was abroad, I saw emerging from an avenue of villa residences a little group that seemed to me very pretty and attractive. In a bath chair, drawn by an aged servitor, and propped up by pillows, there reclined a girl of ten or twelve years, whose pale face and appearance of languor unmistakably proclaimed that she had just escaped from the grasp of some acute disease. By her side there walked a hale and comely Nurse in a trim bonnet, who every now and again looked down upon the girl with a face on which there shone the beauty of sympathy and the pride of the artist. Each time the Nurse glanced upon the convalescent girl she seemed to say, "What do you think of my picture?" Looking at the scene a bystander could not fail to realize that, as Mr. Savory has told us, a skilled Nurse is truly an artist. In the days in which art has flourished, artists of all kinds have been in the habit of uniting themselves into guilds and associations for their mutual encouragement and help; and the time has now arrived when those who are artists in Nursing in this country have resolved that they shall have a guild of their own, which shall promote their usefulness, supply some wants which they have felt for a long time, and be of service to them in many ways. We are met to-day to give our

countenance and support to the Nurses in this undertaking. I feel sure those of us who are spared will in future years look back with satisfaction upon the part we have taken in helping to establish this Association, which I am sure will be destined to prove of great public utility. If this Association aimed simply at benefiting the Nursing body, at improving their status, and relieving them of some of the anxieties which must now haunt them in their vigils, by providing for them new interest and help, it would be worthy of our support, because we all owe some measure of gratitude to the Nurses. But the Association has a higher and wider object, for it aims at raising the standard of Nurses generally, and at offering to all who desire it a reasonable guarantee that those who minister at the bedside are possessed of adequate knowledge and skill. (Cheers.) Surely that ought to come home to all of us, for there are few of us who can hope to avoid the sick-room. To one or two the summons may come by the lightning flash of accident or sudden death; but most of us have to anticipate for ourselves, or what is more afflicting, for those who are near and dear to us, the pangs of illness, and the stealthy inroads of disease. And we all ought to agree to do our utmost to ensure that the alleviation and the succour that skilled Nursing can afford should be available when the hour of trial comes. We ought, moreover, to be able to know that those who profess to nurse are really capable of doing so. It is a truism to say that the issues of life and death often depend upon a skilled Nurse, and it is therefore of the utmost consequence to the whole community that everything that is possible should be done to make Nurses expert and efficient, and that means should be given for discriminating between Nurses who have been properly educated and trained, and those who are mere tyros. It seems to me this Association will tend to raise the standard of Nursing by supplying an incentive to practical work to Nurses who are young. It is certain, moreover, it will, by the Register it proposes to establish, enable the public to select for employment Trained Nurses, if they desire the services of such women. No doubt there have been enormous advances in the training of Nurses, and there are now large numbers of thoroughly competent and skilled Nurses; but there are, it cannot be denied, a great many who are very incompetent. The need of a check upon Nurses is further, I think, clearly indicated by my own experience, for in former days I have seen Nurses whom I have summarily dismissed from the Hospital under my care, for culpable ignorance and even for cruelty, subsequently engaged at other institutions. The need

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