

Nurses' hierarchy, if that should seem expedient. Dr. Sansom has drawn a melancholy picture of the effects of the Register in altering the relations between Doctors and their patients. Hitherto, when a Nurse has been required in a private house, the Doctor has been consulted, and he has selected a suitable person; but it is urged that when this Register is established, the head of the family will consult it, and choose the Nurse for himself. All I can say is, I pity the head of any family who has to search the Register of six or seven thousand names and addresses, and guided by them alone, to select the sort of Nurse he requires. After the Register is created the selection will, as a matter of fact, go on as before. The Doctor will consult the Register, but then the head of the household will have the satisfaction of knowing that the Nurse brought into the house by the Medical man is a thoroughly competent person, and not an ignorant tyro. Dr. Sansom adds—I can hardly think he is serious—that a Registered Nurse, endowed with a diploma, will become a competitor with Medical men in their practice. But all who know anything concerning such matters are aware that it is the best trained Nurses who presume the least. He ought to know, moreover, that a registered Nurse, who would be liable to be struck off the Register, would be much less likely to intrude on the functions of a Doctor, than an unregistered Nurse in a state of irresponsible frivolity. I can assure my medical friends, whom Dr. Sansom wishes to alarm, that they have much more to fear from the rivalry of the parson's wife, with her pills and potions, than from that of the Registered Nurse. I have detained you a long time, but I have given some idea of what I think the progress of the Association ought to be. I hope all present will unite in giving it their very hearty and cordial support. (Cheers.)

The LORD MAYOR said: One of the objects this Association contemplates is the founding and maintaining of a convalescent home and holiday homes or houses, and the carrying out of other philanthropic schemes for the benefit of Nurses. On this point Mr. Brudenell Carter will address you.

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER spoke as follows: We have heard, and truly heard, from Mr. Savory and Sir Crichton Browne that the skilled Nurse is indeed an artist of the very highest order, and, moreover, that she is an artist who puts her life into her work. Few of us who know anything of Nursing can have failed to notice instances in which the functions her position requires her to fill have entailed upon the Nurse sometimes exhaustion, vital and mental, from loss of rest, sometimes the far greater danger of contracting

some form of infectious disease. We feel that a profession which is beset by such peculiar risks as these requires that its members should be provided with especial safeguards against them. One of the first and primary objects of this Association is to establish a Home in some suitable position to which Nurses may be sent when convalescent after illness; or even in cases when they require nothing more than a period of rest to recuperate them, and to fit them to return once again to their duties. We have been told that something of this kind is furnished here and there by various Institutions; but we are anxious that this establishment for which I plead, should be not an Institution but a Home; and that its inmates should be free from tutelage, from unnecessary discipline, from irksome confinement and from galling restrictions, and that they should be free to enjoy and employ their leisure in that manner which may seem best to them, and most likely to conduce to the end that we and they should have in view. It needs no argument of mine to show that the ordinary rates of payment which Nurses receive do not enable them to establish, on a basis that would be satisfactory, such an Institution as is desirable. The payments they receive would in all probability enable such an Institution to be self-supporting, when once it was established and fairly set on foot. But we do feel that the public who benefit so greatly by the services of Members of this Association, who benefit by their services to the extent of the balance turning between life and death, and who benefit to the extent of giving the convalescent a more speedy restoration to health and a more speedy recovery of power to resume the duties of their profession and calling—we do feel that the public who benefit in this way may with propriety be invited to contribute what is required to set such a Home of Rest on foot. We feel that in this way, as in many other particulars, the conditions under which Nurses are placed are no longer adequate to the changed condition of the members who follow that calling. We feel very strongly that this Association is needed in order to place the daily life of a Nurse on a basis more suited to her present education and her present efficiency, and to change it, as all arrangements require to be changed from time to time, from conditions which were perhaps suitable enough to what the class was twenty-five years ago. The appeal we make for our Home of Rest is not a very large one. It is calculated that an endowment of £3,000 would suffice to establish all that is at present required—to furnish and equip it, to afford an invested fund, which will provide for the land and the buildings, and, in fact, to place the Institution in a position to accommodate all Nurses who might desire to use it. This noble

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