

this vote of thanks, not only from us, but from the whole country, for his kindness in giving us the opportunity of meeting in this hall, in order that we may press this movement on to a successful ending.

The resolution was carried amid cheers.

The LORD MAYOR, in replying, spoke as follows: Your Royal Highness, ladies, and gentlemen, permit me to thank you on behalf of the Lady Mayoress and myself, for the very cordial manner in which you have received this resolution in our favour. I think that, so far as this gathering is concerned, you are more indebted, if you are indebted at all, to the Lady Mayoress than myself—(cheers)—inasmuch as what little I know in regard to the object and the aim of this Association I have gathered from her. I can assure you it is to both of us at all times a very great satisfaction indeed, not only to lend this hall, but to give our personal assistance in the promotion of any good object for the benefit of the public. We believe that there is in the aim of this Association a really good object for the benefit of the public at large. We know, of course, that there is some difference between able and capable men in regard to this movement with which the present meeting is associated; but I hope, with all who desire that the public should be supplied with good, well-trained Nurses of character, that this divergence of opinion between high Medical authorities will soon, in some way or other, be reconciled. Her Royal Highness has informed me that she has another engagement, and that she will be obliged to leave the hall. I will, therefore, not detain you by any further remarks, but will simply thank you again on behalf of the Lady Mayoress and myself for the very kind reception you have given to the resolution in our favour. (Cheers.)

The proceedings then terminated.

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

By the time this appears in print the meeting of the British Nurses' Association at Cambridge will have been held. Much interest is, of course, being taken in the experiment in Nursing circles, and, of course, the enemies of the Association have been loudly prophesying that because women have never combined before, so their efforts at union must necessarily be a failure, and that this bold incursion into the Provinces is sure to be a *fiasco*. It certainly was a courageous idea for the

Association at this early period of its history to attempt to hold its Annual Meeting of Members away from its central home. But Mr. Editor proved some weeks ago how wise the attempt was, and I doubt not a success will be secured which will greatly strengthen the Association and delight its friends.

THE papers have had full notices of the great meeting at the Mansion House, and the protest which was made against Registration has naturally only served to draw still more attention to the scheme and its effects. In fact, I never remember any subject which has come so rapidly to the front. This is partly due, of course, to the energy, organisation, and success of the Association, but still more I suspect to the virulence with which Registration by the Association has been denounced. It is beginning to be known, however, that the opponents have very good reasons for their action, inasmuch as they are yearning to undertake the work of Registration themselves! And once this becomes recognised by the public, the proper value will be placed upon the sweeping assertions that are now being made against the Association.

I NOTICE in several leading journals that the question is asked as to what proofs are forthcoming to support the statements made against Registration. What I want to know is how a system which has worked beneficially in the case of a great many other skilled callings, and certainly can do no harm to anyone except ignorant impostors or inefficient workers, can possibly have the evil effects that are predicted of it when Trained Nurses are the people concerned. The opponents of the scheme probably believe with Carlyle that the English nation are "mostly fools," and Nurses especially foolish, or they would never expect such rubbish and random assertions to be gravely swallowed.

AMONGST all the criticism which the Registration scheme has evoked, perhaps the commentary of a writer in the *Lady's Pictorial* of last week is the shrewdest and the most to the point. "As far as an unprejudiced outsider may venture an opinion, this Registration scheme seems an admirable one. It is always well for the public to be protected, as far as possible, from unskilled labour in any department. The amateur will doubtless, like the poor, be always be with us. To 'boycott' him is quite ineffectual. If you crush him as a painter he starts afresh with pen and ink. Hiss him off the stage, and he comes up smiling upon the platform as a reciter. In short, the amateur is irrepresible and must he endured. But it is a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)