

their presumption; the more they know, the more they seem to appreciate the very great difficulties which we all feel, or should feel, in tending the sick. Indeed, it is ignorance which is the great cause of presumption; it is the ignorant who rashly 'rush in where angels fear to tread,' and I cannot but feel therefore that this is entirely wrong, that there is no need whatever to have apprehension on this ground." All who have had much experience of Nurses will cordially agree with Professor Humphry. And the inference is that the better trained Nurses are, the more they learn of the difficulties which beset Medical men at every turn, the more helpful will they become, and the less likely are they to be "presuming." On the other hand, the more ignorant they are, and the less they understand of their calling, its duties and its responsibilities, the more probable is it that they will fail in appreciating and maintaining the position they should hold towards Doctors.

Placing upon one side for the moment the other results of the Association to Nurses, let it be remembered that its primary and cardinal object is to raise the general standard of knowledge of the whole profession, and therefore of each individual Nurse. Surely, therefore, such an intention should commend the Association to the warmest and most active support of every Medical man in the United Kingdom, for the plain fact that, if carried out, it must immediately increase the skilled assistance at his disposal in combating disease, and must proportionately diminish the likelihood of any chance of "presumption" on the Nurse's part. That the leaders of the Medical profession quite realise this is evident from various speeches delivered at the Mansion House Meeting; and from some little knowledge, we ourselves are firmly convinced that such will be the great and abiding effect of the movement. For the more the question is examined, the more plain does it appear that Registration must inevitably result, not only in clearly defining who is entitled to be considered trained, but also in eliminating from the ranks those who are ignorant and unskilled.

The Association, however, aims not only at bringing about Registration, but also at affording material aid to Nurses in the shape of social and professional meetings, Convalescent Homes, Holiday Houses, Benevolent Funds, and so forth. Each one of these are highly laudable schemes, and can only affect the comfort and welfare of the members individually, not in any way their professional conduct. In fact, except by means of some scheme collateral to Registration, we cannot conceive how the Association could take any action in any way affecting the daily duties of Nurses.

Consequently, the only objection which can be raised to the Association, it appears, is that it unites Nurses together into one powerful organisation. But when it is remembered how largely it has been organised, and is under its bye-laws controlled, by Medical men, it is evident that those who fear it will be a disturbing factor in professional work, are dreading a practical impossibility. But we would go further than merely proving this, and would even say that the Association by its very existence is a great proof of the advance of Medical science, and the ever-increasing influence it wields in the world, and that therefore the Nurses' Union deserves the hearty assistance of every Doctor in the Empire. For it only became possible when women of education undertook the duty of tending the sick, and the fact of its rapid success proves how many hundreds of such women are now engaged in this work. Women, ignorant of the benefits of union and the history of similar organisations amongst men, have of course neither attempted to unite together, whether engaged in Nursing, or in any other calling or trade, nor indeed would such be likely to succeed even if they made the attempt.

It suits the aims of certain unscrupulous and untruthful persons to pretend to believe that the Nurses' Association is composed of "the scum of the profession," whereas all thoughtful people must recognise at a glance that, were the indictment true, the movement must have been a dismal failure instead of the rapid and increasing success which it has been. We are prepared in future to see that women engaged in other vocations will also attempt to unite and organise. And on common sense grounds it may be foretold that their success will be accurately measured by the number of educated persons in their midst, and furthermore that these will be magnetically drawn together to the standard of union. From all sides we hear without surprise that the best Nurses of Hospitals or Nursing Institutions all over the Kingdom have already joined the Association.

It is an indisputable fact that women of education and refinement are in large numbers engaged in the work of Nursing, and equally well-known that both Medical men and the public prefer their ministrations. But little wonder can be felt that such women, who from their earliest years have seen their fathers and their brothers derive advantages from organised union with their professional brethren, or in their social affairs, should instantly recognise, keenly appreciate, and eagerly avail themselves of the opportunity to enroll themselves in a similar organisation. Such in reality is the reason why the Association has been so successful. It supplied a want which, though

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