

has been put in my hands is one which, however feebly it may be proposed, is certain to be gladly and enthusiastically received by the meeting. It is as follows:—"That the grateful thanks of this meeting be accorded to Her Royal Highness Princess Christian for her great and constant support to the Association." Now, I do not look upon this proposal as being in any way an ordinary formal vote of thanks concerning which nothing has to be said. I think I will say a very few words, and for that purpose I hope you will allow me two or three minutes. I will not enter into all the arguments which I had occasion to use last year at St. George's Hall. Notwithstanding her Highness's express commands that I should not do so, I then enumerated the various steps by which the Princess has obtained the gratitude and the affection of the English people in reference to this subject. By her conduct in connection with the First Aid question her Royal Highness obtained, without any doubt, the right, if she in her judgment should think fit, to put herself at the head of any national movement for carrying on the education of those women who in every class of life are undertaking this new, great, and worthy profession. A serious difficulty that existed has, I must confess, been removed by the weighty speeches you have heard. It must have been known to many of you before you entered this hall what has been alluded to by Mr. Brudenell Carter, and by almost every speaker—viz., that there is a very great and, I must say, considerable opposition to our proceedings. I do not know how many of you may have seen in one of the journals to-day a practical protest, signed by very important personages. If you have not seen it to-day, you will see it in the course of the next day or two. It is a protest against our proceedings, and especially against our obtaining a Royal Charter. I am quite sure you have heard quite enough to-day on both sides of this great question, and especially from the mouths of the two last speakers with regard to the relations of Midwives to Nurses, to show you that you are on the right lines. I will repeat we are all pleased that Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, Her Majesty's daughter, has placed herself at the head of this movement, and has taken us by the hand, saying, "Through good report and evil report I will do all I can to obtain for you the right position, both for your own sakes and for the sakes of all women as far as Midwives are concerned, and for the sakes of all families in the country who by reason of illness at one time or another require the services of Trained Nurses." Before I formally move this resolution I feel I ought to add that, although I know it is touching on dangerous ground, these pro-

tests against our proceedings are not made by obscure persons; there are two or three parties concerned in the matter, and these parties are composed of persons possessing great experience and knowledge. I say, never mind. We are headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, who understands the whole of this question, and as has been said so well before, a little opposition and a little free fight may be a good thing to bring this great matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Professor MARSHALL said: I feel on this occasion somewhat of an outsider, because, although I have been honoured by having been elected Vice-President of this Association, I must say I have never attended but one meeting, and have taken little or no part in the laborious transactions which must have been carried on in order to bring the movement to the successful position it now occupies. Having small credit for that, I think that my being selected to second this vote may be due to the fact that I have the honour of holding the office which was formerly occupied by my predecessor in this resolution, Sir Henry Acland. There is certainly a point of contact between this movement and that which has been so long continued on behalf of the Medical profession, viz., the Registration of that great body of educated gentlemen, whose duty it is to attend to the misfortunes in accident and disease of this great community. Now Nurses come exactly in that category, and although I was obliged to express unwillingness on the part of the General Medical Council to take charge of what seemed to be a great labour looming in the distance, it was simply because I saw the movement for the Registration of Nurses would be so exhausting, would require so much labour, that I felt compelled unwillingly to say, as President of the Council, that we could not very well undertake the additional work. My advice, therefore, was most urgent that the Registration of Nurses should be a separate Act. I calculated there were upwards of twenty thousand Nurses—of whom we have already two thousand five hundred—and many more Midwives, who would desire Registration, and I contemplated with a certain degree of horror the responsibility of registering all these persons at the Medical Council, and of being responsible for such disciplinary action as might be unhappily necessary in the future in the matter of expurgating that Register. But I am happy to say it is with the greatest satisfaction that I find that the Register is to be established. Without a Register it would be, I think, impossible to carry out the objects of this great undertaking. I am able to say that I, myself, will give every possible information to the Secretaries in the matter of arranging such a Register; they shall have

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)