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Editorial.

CHANGE OF HEART.

Only narrow and inelastic minds are insusceptible to progressive influences, so there is ground for congratulation on the fact that a section of the moving spirits in the R.B.N.A. have realised that the tide of public opinion is set so strongly in the direction of the State Registration of Trained Nurses that it is useless to attempt longer to pull against it. We say a section, for it is an open secret that there are two factions in the inner circles of this Association. On the one hand, Mr. Fardon and his anti-Registration party, and on the other, Mr. Langton, Mrs. Latter, and the Medical Hon. Secretary, Dr. Comyns Berkely, who now apparently hold the brief for the original policy of the Association.

At the recent meeting of the Council of the Association it is rumoured that Mr. Fardon was in a *piano* and pessimistic mood, and impressed on those present that to revert to the original policy of the Association, by promoting a Registration Bill, would be an open acknowledgment of failure.

No doubt it is. But surely Mr. Fardon has by this time realised that his anti-professional policy has failed. If so, then "open confession is good for the soul." We presume his convictions as to Registration are conscientious. Assuming this to be so, then he should long ago have resigned his connection with an Association formed for the purpose of obtaining it, instead of betraying the interests of the nurses on this vital point, and by thrusting through the present reactionary By-laws, ruining the work accomplished by the founders of the Association.

With regard to the pro-Registrationists, who, led by the Hon. Medical Secretary, voice the views of the rank and file of the Association, we are inclined to think with Miss Dock that if they really have change of heart as to Registration, their most honourable and pacific course would have been to give the Society for

the State Registration of Trained Nurses the benefit of their support and criticism, and not to have attempted to cross the bows of the Registration boat with another Bill just as she is coming into harbour.

Nevertheless, the line adopted by the Royal British Nurses' Association of advocating the formation of an unprejudiced Central Board proves comprehension of the intricacies of the question as it now stands; and it is further satisfactory that on many points the two Bills show unanimity of opinion. So far so good. Any influence which the R.B.N.A. can bring to bear on behalf of Registration will also be to the good. It is to be hoped that by the time the two Bills are introduced into the House of Commons and read for the first time, there will be even less dissimilarity than at present. The more the two Bills are brought into line the better.

We take strong exception to the following points in the Synopsis of the R.B.N.A. Bill:—

1. Over nomination of medical members by academic bodies who never have taken, and who cannot take, any practical part in the education and discipline of nurses.

2. The inadequate representation of the Registered Nurses themselves. Six Direct Representatives for an electorate of at least 50,000 nurses are quite insufficient. Both Scotland and Ireland should have at least two representatives elected by the Registered Nurses resident in those countries, and English and Welsh nurses, numerically very much stronger, cannot do with less than six.

3. The one year of grace suggested is far too short a period for the Central Board, created under the Act, to consult with the nurse-training schools as to what constitutes an adequate curriculum of nursing education. Nothing short of a two years' interim is sufficient if the work is to be well and thoroughly done.

4. Under the clause dealing with the qualifications of nurses eligible for registration we are of opinion that the term of training alone

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