

scheme failed. He never forgave the women who grasped the danger of his unrepresentative system. For seventeen years, in season and out of season, through the influence of his newspaper, as a governor of hospitals and nursing societies, he has used every effort to smash up justifiable co-operation amongst the trained nurses of this country, and has cost them thousands of pounds in their attempts to form themselves into a professional body, as their colleagues in all other civilised countries are permitted to do. In spite of him, rectitude and justice have slowly and surely prevailed.

The organisation of the Nursing Profession under the *ægis* of the State is within measurable distance. Sir Henry Burdett has been keen to grasp this fact, and once more, therefore, has hastened to turn his coat.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY THE BEDROCK.

Secretly, without consulting the leaders of nursing reform, the medical profession, or the progressive Nurse-Training Schools, a scheme has been conceived, a constitution, which we now print in full, has been drawn up and adopted, and a petition presented to the Board of Trade for the incorporation of a Society composed of seven laymen, which claims powers to examine, certificate, control, and discipline a body of professional women workers. This means handing over the Nursing Profession, without any representation, to persons who have not hesitated to associate themselves with Sir Henry Burdett, in spite of his reprehensible conduct in relation to the question. It is an attempt to utilise suggestions made in the Bills for the Registration of Nurses introduced into the House of Commons, and to grasp power over those nurses who for nearly twenty years have stood firmly for the great principle upon which alone a reputable profession of nursing can be founded and built up—the personal responsibility of every individual nurse.

This essential professional principle has been totally ignored in the constitution of the Society for the Higher Training and Education of Nurses. Without it, no organisation can satisfy the aspirations of women who are worthy to form the great and noble Profession of Nursing.

And in spite of all tyrannies, such a Profession will arise.

#### THE DUTY OF NURSES.

It is not yet too late for nurses to express their views to the Board of Trade as to the incorporation of the proposed Society. Before granting the request of the signatories to the Memorandum notice of the application will be given in the public press, and an opportunity afforded to objectors to state their views, an opportunity of which Nurses' Associations should avail themselves. We hear that several Matrons of important training-schools, including those who support and oppose State Registration who have been invited now that the scheme is in print, to help to form the Council, have refused to do so, considering it crude and impracticable.

## Memorandum of Association of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses.

1. The name of the Society is "The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses."

2. The Registered Office of the Society will be situate in England.

3. The objects for which the Society is established are:—

- (a) To promote the higher education and training of nurses.
- (b) To promote uniformity of curriculum in the training of persons intended for the nursing profession.
- (c) To recognise approved nursing schools.
- (d) To grant certificates of proficiency in nursing to persons who may pass prescribed examinations after training, and to grant certificates of training and proficiency in nursing to persons who have been trained in recognised nursing-schools and have passed prescribed examinations. Provided that the Society shall not grant, or profess to grant, titles or diplomas.
- (e) To grant certificates of proficiency in any special branch of either medical or surgical nursing.
- (f) To institute and conduct examinations of persons desirous of obtaining certificates of proficiency, or of training and proficiency, in nursing, and to encourage improved training.
- (g) To prescribe such courses of study and technical training, and to diffuse such information as may be calculated to ensure the fitness of persons desirous of qualifying as nurses, and of obtaining certificates, either of proficiency or of training and proficiency.
- (h) To make and maintain a Register of persons to whom certificates of proficiency or of training and proficiency have been granted by the Society.
- (i) To remove from such Register the name or names of any person or persons as the Society may in its discretion think proper.
- (j) To take measures against any person who never held a certificate of the Society, or whose name has been removed from the Register, to prevent such person from representing that he or she holds the certificate of the Society.
- (k) To promote the advancement of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches.
- (l) To provide, establish, and maintain, in London and elsewhere, examination halls and lecture rooms, with all requisite equipment, and to institute and provide courses of lectures and demonstrations.
- (m) To establish, print, and publish a newspaper, journal, or magazine, also a calendar and such other publication or publications, periodical or otherwise, as the Society may think necessary for the purpose of promoting the objects of the Society.
- (n) To accept any gift, endowment, or bequest made to the Society generally or for the pur-

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