

Trustees have been if no incorporation had been effected, and the incorporation of the Society shall not diminish or impair any control or authority exercisable by the Chancery Division or the Chancery Commissioners over such Managers or Trustees, but they shall as regards any such property be subject jointly and separately to such control or authority as if the Society were not incorporated. In case the Society shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts the Society shall only deal with the same in such manner as allowed by law, having regard to such trusts.

Notice is hereby further given that any person, company, or corporation objecting to this application may bring such objection before the Board of Trade, on or before the 21st day of March, 1905, by a letter addressed to the Comptroller of the Companies Department, Board of Trade, 8, Delahay Street, London, S.W.

Dated this 25th day of February, 1905.

W. R. MILLAR AND SONS,  
53, Borough High Street, Southwark,  
Solicitors to the proposed Society.

It is, in our opinion, the duty of every nurse to avail herself of the opportunity offered by the Board of Trade, and bring all the influence which she can command to prevent this scheme receiving the sanction of the Board. The seven signatories to the Memorandum are, of course, not its original promoters, who, it is well known, are men who are averse to any real self-government for nurses. It is not too much to say that if the scheme is enforced, both as regards their personal and professional liberties, nurses will be placed under the absolute domination of this body of laymen.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the persons seeking to obtain the wide powers over trained nurses petitioned for, have no expert knowledge of nursing, or of the needs of trained nurses, and that they claim the right of maintaining a Register of Nurses, and of removing from that Register the name of any nurse "as the Society may in its discretion think proper." There need be no fault, no misconduct, no proved guilt. Therefore, any nurse who is not a *persona grata* to the Society may be whisked off the Register without so much as being informed that this procedure is contemplated, and without an opportunity of disproving the accusations against her.

It is not necessary to dilate upon the serious consequences of this provision, or on its effect upon the professional career of any nurse whose name may be placed upon this Register. Not only would her personal reputation be damaged, but her power of self-support, by means of the profession for which she has been educated, would be seriously affected, if not rendered altogether impossible. It is not right that this arbitrary power of ruining professional women, for no cause shown, should be placed in the hands of any self-appointed body of men, and every trained nurse should, either personally or

through the societies to which she belongs, enter her protest against such powers being granted.

The promoters of this scheme assert that nurses are not ready for legal registration and that a voluntary system should, therefore, pave the way for it. Nurses believe that they *are* ready, and have been ready for some time, and that no voluntary system can effectively deal with the question, as has been proved in connection with the attempts already made in this direction. But the point at issue in the present instance is not whether nurses shall be registered by a voluntary society or under the authority of the State, but the method of applying these powers. Nurses rightly consider it just that the responsibility for the good government of their profession should be in their own hands, and that they should have direct and adequate representation on the body by which they will be governed. In the Memorandum before us the promoters ask that *they* shall be entrusted with these powers to the exclusion of the nurses, and they deliberately provide that the Council shall be a nominated body, so that nurses will have no power of deciding by whom they will be governed.

It will be noted that in 1891 the Board of Trade refused incorporation under its authority to the British Nurses' Association, on the ground of its incompetence to deal with the very important questions connected with the establishment of a Register of Nurses, and expressed its conviction that full enquiry by competent authorities into all the facts and circumstances of the case and into the objections that have been raised should precede any further steps on the part of Her Majesty's Government. That authority, in the form of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, is now enquiring into the whole question, and as the reasons advanced by the Board of Trade are as valid now as in 1891, it is difficult to see how it is possible for it to grant powers of incorporation to the proposed Society.

Nurses must, however, be on the alert and do everything in their power to prevent such a disaster. As they will see, objections may be brought before the Board of Trade up to March 21st next, and we have reason to believe that many will be lodged against the application.

As several nurses have written to us asking us what action they can usefully take, we would suggest one or more of the following methods:—

1. If they are members of a Nursing Society or League, to arrange with its officers to call an emergency meeting and adopt a protest.
2. To bring the matter before hospital committees asking them to take action.
3. To bring the matter to the notice of prominent medical men and ask them to help.
4. To write themselves to the Comptroller of the Companies Department, Board of Trade, 8, Delahay Street, London, S.W., stating their objections.

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