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**Editorial.**

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON  
REGISTRATION.

We have the greatest satisfaction and pleasure in calling the attention of the nursing profession to the decision concerning State Registration of Nurses, at which the British Medical Association has finally arrived. The history of this decision is very noteworthy. In 1889, at the Annual Meeting of the Association held at Birmingham, Dr. Bedford Fenwick proposed a Resolution in favour of the Registration of Nurses. The discussion which followed showed that very little was then known on the subject by the members of the Association, and finally the Resolution was withdrawn. During the next few years, the matter was brought before many individual members of the Association so that when the Association met in London in 1896, and Dr. Bedford Fenwick proposed a Resolution that an Act of Parliament should as soon as possible be passed providing for the Registration of nurses, this was warmly supported, and carried unanimously at the largest meeting the Association had ever held. Finally, three years ago, Dr. Langley Browne, to whose exertions on their behalf trained nurses owe a great debt of gratitude, proposed a resolution approving of State Registration, which was carried without opposition. The matter was referred to the Council of the Association, and was again discussed at the meeting of Representatives held last year, when it was resolved that the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons which had inquired into the subject should be referred to every Division of the Association, and the opinion of each was asked for as to the advisability of legislation. Great efforts have since been made

to stir up opposition inside the Association to Registration; but the medical profession has proved itself once more steadfast in its resolve to uphold the honour of the profession and the highest advantage and safety of the public. Nothing could be more significant than the fact that of the twenty-six divisions of the Association which reported their decisions to the Medico-Political Committee during the past few months twenty expressed a strong opinion in favour of Registration, two expressed their approval of Registration if the term of nurses' training were made not less than three years, and of the whole great body of the Association only four decided that Registration was unnecessary. Every section of the Association elects a representative to express its views at a special meeting of the Association. This was held last week in London, and it will be of the utmost encouragement to those who have worked for so long for the success of this great movement to learn that it was moved by Dr. H. Langley Browne, seconded by Sir Victor Horsley, and, in a crowded meeting, was carried, ninety voting in favour and only three dissenting:—"That this meeting approves of the recommendation of the Parliamentary Select Committee that there should be State Registration of Nurses, and is of opinion that on any Central Council or Board appointed the medical profession and the nursing profession should be *adequately* and *directly* represented." To this a rider was proposed and carried expressing the opinion of the meeting that on such a Central Board the medical representation should number one-half. This, then, is the decisive and valuable expression of opinion on this subject from the largest body of medical practitioners in the world. The decision has been made in the face of the most active efforts at organised opposition, and it will carry great weight with the public and with Parliament,

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