

Register without further delay. But Nurses should clearly understand that the Register must be legalised by Royal Charter, or Act of Parliament, before they can gain the full measure of its usefulness to themselves, or to their calling. It has been distinctly stated by the Committee of the Association that the Charter will not be sought until the number of names enrolled on the Register is so large as to convince the Privy Council of the general desire, upon the part of Nurses, that their calling should be recognised as a distinct and skilled profession by the law of the land. The Register is opened, and whether it contains three thousand, or six thousand, or nine thousand names, by the end of this year, does not depend on any Board, however influential, nor will it really be much affected by the action of any little clique, or any combined Hospital influence. It depends solely upon every individual Nurse of three years' training or work. If some keep back to see what others do; if a few are intimidated by the blustering and bullying tone adopted by people who are pecuniarily interested in defrauding the public and over-working and underpaying Nurses, they themselves will be the chief sufferers. The principle of Registration has been enforced for other professions. It is a mere matter of time when the Legislature of this country is compelled to enforce it in the case of Nurses. The ball has been set rolling and will gather force and momentum as it gathers weight. But the rapidity of its movement depends upon the impulse which is given to it by each individual Nurse. Every certificated Nurse now has the opportunity given her of not only helping herself, but assisting in the establishment of her profession by making application for enrolment on the Register of Nurses, and so separating herself, and assisting to clear her calling, from the hundreds of ignorant women who now are able to pose before the public as Trained Nurses. For be it ever remembered that these women do more than take the money which should go to really skilled workers; they bring the calling into constant disrepute, and bring discredit upon every true Nurse.

And so we come to the third item of the Association's programme—the help which is to be accorded to individual members—and in this, there cannot be disputed, a good beginning has already been made. The popular winter *Conversazione*, the valuable Annual Report, the interesting and instructive monthly Meetings, the register of vacant appointments kept at the Offices, whereby so many members have already obtained work and even valuable posts—all these schemes have been already tried, and found useful, and proved successful. The new scheme, to our

mind, shows the advent of more ambitious and farther reaching plans in the same direction. We learn, indeed, that besides an Exhibition of Nursing appliances, there will in a few days be opened a Reading Room and Reference Library at the Offices of the Association, and considering the high class of Nurses from which the Members are drawn, we can well believe that these important adjuncts will be eagerly welcomed and largely utilised.

The advantages of a Reference Library, and the comfort and pleasure of a Reading-room, doubtless supplied with the chief current literature of the day, will be very great; but unless we mistake, the exhibition, while the most novel, will also be one of the most valuable and highly valued benefits conferred upon Nurses by Membership of the Association. Everyone acquainted with Private Nurses is well aware of the great drawback of their work—the inevitable absence of any opportunity of keeping abreast of the progress of Nursing knowledge. Miss Thomson, we observe, in her paper on "Private Nursing" drew attention to this well-known fact. And for this reason a condensed compendium—so to speak—of the most recent Nursing inventions and appliances, as set forth in the proposed Exhibition, would be to those engaged in work outside the Hospital sphere of transcendent value. But it would be of much interest and importance also to Hospital workers because there are many things used in one Institution and found useful which never find their way into another. For this latter reason we are tempted to venture to make a suggestion to the Association—that Nurses should be invited to contribute to this Exhibition, as well as the leading manufacturers who have doubtless already promised to do so. Because there are many splints, belts, bandages, and dressings which Nurses are in the habit of making and using daily, and yet which would be quite novel to workers at other Hospitals. In any case we doubt not that the new scheme will be most useful and instructive to Nurses individually, and will still further prove the importance and value of the work in which the British Nurses' Association is engaged.

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HEALTH is the only riches that a man ought to set a value on, for without it all men are poor, let their estates be what they will.

MANY children are ambitious to excel in their classes or have an insatiable desire for knowledge, the result of an abnormally-developed brain. They should no more be allowed to use that organ to excess than they should be permitted to overload their stomachs with a variety of food.

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