

vision over its members when engaged in professional duties ; (d) the collection, collation, and publication of information of service or interest to members of the journalistic profession ; (e) watching any legislation affecting the discharge by journalists of their professional duties, and endeavouring to obtain amendments of the law affecting journalists, their duties or interests ; (f) acting as a means of communication between members or others seeking professional engagements, and employers desirous of employing them ; (g) promoting personal and friendly intercourse between members of the institute ; holding conferences and meetings for the discussion of professional affairs, interests, and duties ; the compilation, constant revision, and publication of lists and registers of journalists, and of records of events and proceedings of interest to journalists ; (h) the formation of a library or libraries for the use of members of the institute ; (i) the encouragement, establishment, or development of a professional journal for journalists ; (j) the promotion, encouragement, or assistance of means for providing against the exigencies of age, sickness, death, and misfortune ; (k) the acquisition by the institute of a hall or other permanent place of meeting and of other places of meeting ; (l) securing the advancement of journalism in all its branches, and obtaining for journalists, as such, formal and definite professional standing ; (m) the promotion by all reasonable means of the interests of journalists and journalism."

Our contemporaries have remarked that this is an ambitious programme, but we cannot believe it is one whit too extended, considering not only the greatness of the work which has to be done, but also the immensity of power confided to the hands of the workers, as wielding the most potent weapon ever forged, the free Press of a free country. But what we desire chiefly to do is to reason from the analogy of the journalists' case as to the position and the prospects of the Nurses' Charter.

Several papers have this week, in discussing the matter, laid stress upon the fact that the Privy Council granted the Charter within six months from the time that the application was made for it, and this they have explained by the assumption that the justice of the claim for incorporation was so clear, that no opposition could possibly be made. As we and our readers know, this has not been the case with Nurses, although, upon the face of it, the importance of the services of Trained Nurses is every whit as great to the sick bodies of the public, as the assistance of journalists is to their healthy minds. And yet it is a matter of common knowledge, that a small and noisy clique has threatened to make all the opposition it can to the petition of Nurses for their incorporation.

For our part we never have taken much account of this threat. And we are glad to know that many of the leaders of the British Nurses' Association care equally little for the menace, and openly say that when they are ready in other ways to apply for their Charter, they have ample proofs in their possession to show to the Privy Council and the public how and why this opposition has been created.

But when will the Association take this step? We are often asked for our opinion upon the matter, and we always make one stereotyped reply: "The Association has evidently learnt the invaluable secret of keeping its own counsel, because we have never heard of any official assertion having been made upon the subject." It has been frequently stated indeed that the Charter could not be applied for until the Register of Nurses had been formed, and also sufficient names enrolled upon it to prove to the Privy Council that Registration was desired by the Trained Nurses of the United Kingdom. But what do the managers of the Association consider a "sufficient number"? We hear of the thousands of Members whom they have brought together, and we can realise the great strength such union implies. We are told of many hundreds of applications for Registration having been received, and that already nearly a thousand of these have been carefully criticised by the Registration Board, and ordered to be entered on the Register. But we have no more definite information as to the intentions of the Association, and we can only presume that for some very good reasons those intentions are kept secret.

But one thing is quite plain. The Register is now opened, and if trained workers in such large numbers are hastening to secure the admission of their names, it certainly behoves all Nurses who value their own position, even if they have no care for the good name of their calling, to follow their example with what speed they can. Because our information leads us to believe, what we have often predicted, that it is the best class of Nurses who have recognised the benefit to themselves individually, which Registration affords, by clearly distinguishing them from inferior workers. And so it seems to be mainly the members of this class, who have chiefly sought for the privilege.

Those who are entirely ignorant of professional matters of course prophesied that exactly the converse would take place, and that untrained and ignorant women would be anxious to have their lack of training made clear to the public by its declaration in an official Register. How absurd their contention was, will probably soon be made abundantly clear to all men. Meanwhile we can safely prophesy that every Trained Nurse who is

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