

entailed by the printing of the Register, which, we presume, will be issued every year—it must be expected that the expenditure will be very great.

Then, on the other hand, it is openly said that the Registration Board has established a very high standard, both of professional knowledge and personal character, which must be attained by candidates before they can obtain enrolment on the Register.

In relation to this, it is well for Nurses to clearly understand the position which the Association has taken up. Last summer it was announced that the draft of the Royal Charter was completely ready, but that it was felt to be wiser to defer asking Her Majesty to grant legal powers and privileges to the Association until the Register was formed, and practical experience of its machinery had shown precisely what powers and privileges were requisite. Our readers may remember that certain foolish persons, who imagined that the advisers of the Association were of their own mental calibre, believed that this wise resolution meant that the idea of the Charter was abandoned. And the enemies of the Association, vehemently incensed at its caution, have never since ceased to draw the same false conclusion.

But now the object and wisdom of the delay is being exemplified. Had the Association been from the first fettered and controlled by the rigid regulations of a Royal Charter, it certainly might have been obliged to admit many names upon its Register which now, as a free and independent body, it can at once refuse to do. It can, therefore, commence the work with a much higher standard than would have been possible had a Charter been obtained, which might have made it necessary at first to place on the Register every woman who chose to apply, and who could prove that she had ever nursed anyone through an illness or an injury. We can even believe that the knowledge of this possibility played no small part in influencing the Association to delay seeking for legal powers, and, if this be so, we can appreciate the quiet amusement which the hysterical outbursts of the opponents of Registration must have caused, and another reason why these have been so markedly unanswered.

But the fact that this high standard of excellence has been determined upon, and the probability therefore that the numbers who will be Registered will at first be very small, tends to make us believe that for some time to come the cost of the scheme will require the whole of the receipts. For the advantages which Nurses will gain from Registration in raising the standard of professional efficiency throughout the entire calling, and consequently increasing the estimation in

which Nurses will be held by the Medical profession and the public at large, will be morally very great. And when it is remembered that Registration will do much more than this—that it will give Doctors and the public for the first time a ready means of ascertaining whether any given woman is a Trained Nurse or not, with the inevitable result that hundreds who are now unworthily usurping the places and the remuneration of Nurses will be compelled to cease from such unfair competition, and the great and abiding benefit of the scheme, not only to the public, but to all skilled attendants on the sick, becomes perfectly plain.

For all this immediate and prospective personal and professional good half-a-guinea seems a very small payment, and we are not surprised to observe that as soon as five thousand names have been enrolled it is intended to double the fee. We presume, indeed, that as soon as the Royal Charter has been obtained the charge will be raised still higher. We can imagine that some saving may then be effected, and that the Regulation to which we have called attention may then be called into effect. But whether this takes place soon or late we most warmly commend the intention which it displays. There are many things in which Nurses urgently need assistance, and it is a most just proposal to utilise the surplus funds which are derived from Registration in the carrying into effect benevolent schemes for the individual benefit of those who provided those funds. And this is the more noteworthy and admirable because such a plan is not pursued in the analogous cases of lawyers or doctors, who pay much more highly for Registration, and yet do not receive in return a tithe of the material benefits which will directly accrue to Nurses from the same system.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

PART I.—MATERNAL.

CHAPTER V.—DUTIES DURING CONVALESCENCE.

(Continued from page 51.)

YOU now wash the vulva, but at this time I do not advise douching. Remove the binder and napkins, and with the water you have just used bathe the privates. I neither use flannels or sponges for this purpose, but a soft little mop that answers a great deal better than either. Wipe the parts perfectly dry with a Turkish towel. Draw the soiled night dress down over the hips, and so remove it, and place a clean draw-sheet under the patient. Do all these manipulations quickly, ex-

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