

report of the historic fight before the Privy Council between the Royal British Nurses' Association and its opponents, organised principally by St. Thomas's, the London, Westminster, and Guy's Hospitals (with the exception of the Matron in the last instance) should be studied at length by every nurse who takes an interest in her profession, and desires to safeguard its interests, and her own professional independence.

An accurate report appears of these proceedings in "The Victory of the Nurses—How the Battle of the Charter was Fought and Won," which was issued by the Record Press, Ltd., in 1893.

OPPOSITION AND OBJECTIONS.

The following were the objections advanced by the Committees of certain London hospitals and others, amongst them, St. Thomas's, Guy's, Westminster, the London, &c., to the Incorporation of the Royal British Nurses' Association by the Board of Trade without the word "Limited."

OBJECTIONS.

1. "That a self-appointed Association, such as the British Nurses' Association, is not a fitting or competent authority to determine, in the interest either of the Nursing Profession or of the general public, who should be put on the Register or who shall be excluded from it."

2. "That no written or oral examination of Nurses in the technical details of their duties can possibly lead to any approximate estimate of their real fitness and competence as Nurses, and least of all an examination conducted apart from Hospitals, and by persons not specially qualified, for a Nurse's qualifications depend mainly on practical experience, or natural gifts and moral qualities, which a mere examination, however well conducted, can never adequately test."

3. "That the effect of the proposed Register of Nurses, by granting certificates of competency professing to be authoritative while being necessarily imperfect and untrustworthy, would be to mislead instead of guiding both the public and medical practitioners, and to lower the standard of Nursing by placing numbers of insufficiently trained and inferior Nurses on the same level as their highly-trained and thoroughly competent sisters."

4. "That the authorities of the Nurse-training Schools are alone in a position, from their experience and special knowledge, and from their intimate acquaintance with the individual Nurses who have been trained under their care, to certify who are fit and properly trained Nurses, and that the certificates of efficiency given by them are sufficient, and are infinitely more valuable and trustworthy than any certificates otherwise acquired could possibly be."

5. "That no Association, having for its object to test and guarantee by certificate the educational and other qualifications of its members has ever yet had accorded to it such powers and privileges as the British Nurses' Association aims at acquiring until it has been shown by actual results that its

action has been beneficial to the public and to the body it purports to represent, and that it has the support of the leading members as well as of the large majority of the rank and file of that body. The large Nurse-training Schools of Great Britain including the Nightingale School, to whose labours the vast improvement which has of late years taken place in the education and status of Nurses is wholly attributable, are, almost without exception, unrepresented in the British Nurses' Association, and are opposed to its Registration Scheme."

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

We gather from the Circular Letter issued by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, that "his advisers," known to be the managers and matrons of the group of London Hospitals, who in 1891 issued the above "Objections," are now about to seek powers from the Board of Trade to enforce regulations for the organization of nursing, which they at that time urged were useless and unnecessary. Next week, we shall discuss the Petition to the Board of Trade for powers to absolutely control the Nursing Profession by seven financiers, upon the suggestion of Miss Swift, the then Matron of Guy's Hospital, who is taking a very active part in advocating the new suggestion, that the Nursing Profession shall be governed by the anti-registration Managers of certain large Nurse Training Schools.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

THE WAR THAT NEVER ENDS.

If at last the sword is sheathed,
And men, exhausted, call it peace,
Old Nature wears no olive wreath,
The weapons change—war does not cease.

The little struggling blades of grass
That lift their heads and will not die,
The vines that climb where sunbeams pass,
And fight their way toward the sky!

And every soul that God has made,
Who from despair their lives defend
And, struggling upward through the shade,
Break every bond that will not bend,
These are the soldiers, unafraid
Of the great war that has no end.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses met in the Council Chamber of the British Medical Association, 429, Strand, W.C., on Saturday, January 15th, to consider the Circular Letter issued by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee, proposing to organise the Nursing Profession.

The meeting was well attended by delegates from the affiliated societies. The proceedings were private, but it is permissible to mention that duties were deputed to the Executive Committee which will shortly meet to carry out its instructions.

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