

could trust these gentlemen to feel in honour bound to see that the wishes of the Association were carried out.

They welcomed their colleagues from the College with open arms, and hoped that the two bodies would live together in godly love and honesty, working together in a common cause.

The present was the last meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association. At first he was against amalgamation, but now that the scheme was modified he felt it was for the ultimate good of the Association, the passing of which was a matter of sincere regret to him.

The Resolution was seconded by MRS. LATTER, who, speaking from the body of the Hall, said that the whole of Europe was in the smelting pot, and forces were making for disintegration, party politics had given way, and nurses must set their house in order so that they might have a place in the sun.

SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE, in supporting the resolution, said that the establishment of the General Medical Council had saved his own profession from decadence. The seed of nursing reform had been sown in the Crimea, but there was still room for improvement, and much needed to be done. If they amalgamated with the College they would get State Registration. He presumed all members of the R.B.N.A., or almost all, were in favour of State Registration, and it was never more necessary than to-day. Enormous numbers of amateurs were doing nursing work during the war, and of those who had not been absorbed by matrimony, many would continue after the war to pose as nurses and compete with real nurses taking the bread out of their mouths.

All the Bills for the Registration of Nurses introduced into Parliament had failed,* and owing to causes into which he need not enter the R.B.N.A. had not fulfilled the promise of its youth, but he hoped that new endowments would flow in and the Charter of the R.B.N.A. would be converted into the Magna Charta of the Nursing Profession in this country.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY.

PROFESSOR GLAISTER said he had come from the North to assist at the wedding ceremony. During the last twenty years efforts had been made to obtain State Registration of Nurses, and the spade work that had been done should not be for-

* This is contrary to facts. The Bill introduced by Lord Ampthill into the House of Lords in 1908 was fully debated and passed on November 10th of that year without a division having been taken at any stage with the support of the Government and of the Leader of the Opposition. When the Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses was introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple, M.P., under the ten minutes' rule, in 1914 on a division being taken there was a majority of 229 in favour of leave being given to bring in the Bill, largely the result of the "spade work" done by the members of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the Central Committee, and in spite of the opposition of some of the leading promoters of the College.

gotten. In the North they were keen for State Registration. He hoped they would all go forward unanimously in support of the principle and let details go.

MRS. WYATT (Falmouth) also supported the resolution

RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH.

MISS A. J. BEATTY said they had been told of the failure of the Association. What was the cause? It was that the nurses had not had power. (Interruption and "sit down.") It was formed for the benefit of nurses, to work for their welfare. To-day, there were no nurses on the platform. (Hisses.) She claimed the right of free speech. (Hisses.) Dr. Curry here appealed to the Chairman, who made no attempt to protect free speech, and said that he hoped the lady would be allowed a hearing.

Miss Beatty said it was the third time she had been interrupted. She had the floor, and she claimed her right, as a member of the Association, to speak; they could hiss when she had finished.

The Association in its early days was a flourishing concern and had a Royal Charter won by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Dr. Bedford Fenwick. It was only when the medical profession obtained control that it became weak. Its offices used to be pleasant places frequented by nurses. She had been to the office that afternoon, and found one servant there who grumbled at having to tell her where the meeting was. Now they were going to ask lay people to help to manage them. The medical members had tried to do so, and had failed. She doubted if things would improve under lay management. It was only when nurses managed their own affairs that they would become an influential body. They had been told that the meeting was a marriage ceremony; she considered it a funeral.

A GRATUITOUS INSULT TO THE FOUNDERS.

DR. CURRY regretted that there should be one dissentient voice, but believed that the lady who had just spoken had done so with heartfelt sincerity.

In supporting the resolution he said that some members had been afraid of the lamb lying down with the lion, lest it should do so inside the lion; but he thought the Royal College of Nursing—licensed by the State to grant degrees—would have great influence, and carry more weight than a Bedford Fenwick Association of Nurses.† He did not say that in any offensive spirit to his colleague and his distinguished wife. He hoped all would stand on one platform.

MRS. DACRE CRAVEN supported the resolution, as the oldest living Florence Nightingale probationer.

† Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has taken no part in the management of the Association, and is therefore in no way responsible for its failure, since new Bye-Laws were passed in 1898, to which she was opposed. She founded the Association in 1887 as a British Nurses' Association and has always disapproved of the monopoly of power by the Hon. Medical Officers.

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