

two separately, an explanation in any case amusing, and, if strictly true, highly significant. But now as to the statements. To put it very mildly, these assertions are simply untrue. The Royal British Nurses' Association, as the speakers at this meeting must have been very well aware, is not opposed in its views by all the leading Nurse-training Schools. The Association has hitherto maintained a most passive and, we think, a very mistaken attitude in permitting its unscrupulous opponents to revile and intimidate its Members publicly and privately. It has allowed the most unfounded statements against itself, and them, to be circulated broadcast over the country without contradiction or protest. It may feel confident in the strength of its following and in the justice of its cause; but we think that it would have acted more wisely if it had shown its powers and publicly declared its views on more than one occasion. But it is an incontrovertible fact that St. Bartholomew's, University College, and the Middlesex Hospitals are amongst the strongest supporters of the Association, while the list of its Council shows that at least one hundred large Hospitals throughout the country are in complete accord with its views. We are not aware of the actual facts, but probably there are considerably more than half the large provincial Hospitals in the United Kingdom represented upon the Association. At any rate, with the three great Institutions which we have named, with the York, the Lincoln, the Sussex, the Cambridge, and a score of other county Hospitals which it is common knowledge are supporting the Association, it is a deliberate untruth to assert that it is opposed by all the leading Nurse-training Schools. We earnestly hope that steps will be taken now to show the public what widespread influence the Association really possesses, but which the uninitiated, merely looking at the names of its Council, might hardly realise.

Once more, it is clearly a distinct untruth to assert that the Association has not any substantial claim to represent the great body of Nurses for the sick. Those who made this statement must have known that the Association has three thousand Trained Nurses in its ranks. To say that any body composed of one quarter of the whole number of Nurses in these islands has "no substantial claim to represent" the wishes of these workers is so deliberate and outrageous a perversion of facts that it needs no further comment nor refutation. But be it observed how the opponents of the Association in their exertions

have overbalanced themselves. Because "reason" clearly implies that if the Association was not opposed in its views by all the Nurse Training Schools—and of course it is not—and if it had any substantial claim to represent the great body of Nurses—which of course it has—then it would be "entitled to claim the privilege which it seeks" from the Board of Trade. It, therefore, behoves the Association to prove—as it doubtless easily and conclusively can—these two conditions, and the ground is effectually cut away beneath its opponents' feet by their own statements.

The final Resolution, apparently, was put from the chair, presumably because no one could or would propose and second it. It runs as follows:

"That each of the large Hospitals and Nursing Institutes of the country be requested to nominate two representatives to form a Committee of Observation."

The ridiculous impertinence of this proposal carries its own condemnation with it, and we will leave it to others to discuss.

We have only two final observations to make. We believe that the Hospital authorities who have identified themselves and their Institutions with these indefensible proceedings have committed the most serious mistake. The Royal British Nurses' Association has only to appeal to the public against their attacks, and show the necessity of Registration, to gain for its work the best possible advertisement, and probably more widespread support than it could have obtained in ten years under ordinary circumstances. While on the other hand a deep distrust will be excited in the public mind against Institutions which are, for whatever reasons, seeking so strenuously to prevent the sick of the richer classes being protected against ignorant or untrustworthy Nurses. The Association can plead that this is a question for the public, and for Medical men, and for Trained Nurses alone to settle. Nurse Training Schools have no control of any kind over their certificated and departed *employées*. They do nothing for them, and know as a rule nothing about them, once they have left their service. If these women chose to place their names on a Register, and to pay for doing so, and if the Association cares to take the labour and expense of scrutinising their qualifications and compiling and publishing the Register, it is no business of any Training School in the Kingdom. And those who oppose them in doing so are simply impertinent. But those persons who are struggling to prevent Nurses from purging their calling from untrustworthy workers must not be surprised if

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