

On these grounds the Committee distinctly object to the hazardous experiment of interfering with the mutually beneficial relations which now exist between Nurses and their employers, and without pretending to have exhausted all that might be said on this complex subject, which touches so nearly the daily life of the community, they trust they have said enough to induce the Board of Trade to pause before granting the application of the British Nurses' Association.

WESTMINSTER, *Chairman.*

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, *Vice-Chairman.*

J. TROUTBECK, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MARY C. THYNNE, *Hon. Secretary.*

W. H. ALLCHIN, M.B., F.R.C.P.,

*Physician to Westminster Hospital,  
Lecturer to the Nursing Staff.*

THOS. BOND, F.R.C.S.,

*Surgeon to Westminster Hospital,  
Lecturer to the Nursing Staff.*

MARY J. PYNE,

*Matron of Westminster Hospital,  
Lady Superintendent of the West-  
minster Nurses' Home.*

24th February, 1891.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

THE PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Treasurer and Governors of Guy's Hospital having been informed that an application has been made by the British Nurses' Association to the Board of Trade to establish a company without the word "Limited" attached, to form and control a Register for Trained Nurses, and a Register for Certificated Midwives, they desire to express their strong objection to the same on the following grounds:—

(1) The duties and qualifications of Nurses differ so materially from those of other Registered bodies, involving as they do considerations of character and disposition apart from mere technical knowledge, that it would be impossible to find a place for them in any general Register which aims at being a guide to the public and the medical profession. The effect of such a Register, by supplying a certificate of competency, professing to be authoritative, must necessarily have a tendency to mislead, and also to lower the standard of efficient Nurse-training.

(2) The authorities of the Nurse-training School, who are opposed to this movement, are alone in a position, from their special knowledge, to understand the capabilities and character of each individual Nurse. The plan of Registration is more effectively attained by the practice of the existing Training Schools in issuing Certificates

and maintaining their own Registers, and by furnishing information, often of a confidential nature, respecting the character and capacities of the Nurses.

(3) A Register of Certificated Midwives does not fall within the scope of this Hospital, but it may be pointed out that the question of a Midwives' Register is now under the consideration of the leading medical authorities, with the view of securing Parliamentary legislation at an early date.

(4) To the association of Nurses in a friendly Society for their mutual help no objection can be taken, but any proposal to establish a central authority without the co-operation of the Nurse Training Schools and great Hospitals, "to determine from time to time what tests shall be imposed upon candidates for Registration as evidence that they possess the necessary skill and knowledge of their profession," must necessarily lead to discord, and prove inimical to the great work of the Training Schools in their efforts to improve the standard of Nursing throughout the country.

For the President and Governors of Guy's  
Hospital.

(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,  
*Treasurer.*

Guy's Hospital, Feb. 27, 1891.

## NURSING ECHOES.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

I HEAR H.R.H. Princess Christian has graciously consented to open the "Home of Rest" for Nurses at Brighton on May the 4th, after which date it will be ready for the reception of Nurses. It is largely owing to the great personal interest the Princess has taken in the scheme that the Committee has been able to complete the arrangements so soon.



THE gratitude of Nurses is evidently also due to Mrs. Lionel Lucas, the lady owing to whose generosity the Committee has been able to buy the freehold of the beautiful house in Sussex Square.

I AM told that Mrs. McIntyre has been appointed Matron at the "Home," and that she has had considerable experience in nursing, combined with

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