

time, as the Association has all along insisted, there is nothing whatever to prevent any ignorant and incompetent woman from styling herself a Trained Nurse, and thereby imposing upon the public to the serious danger of patients. That such persons do so impose upon the public is beyond doubt, although they do not do so with anything like the frequency with which they did in days gone by. We are, of course, quite aware, and duly thankful, that the state of things which induced Charles Dickens to wage war against a flagrant evil of his time is no longer existent in our Hospitals. People who know where to apply, and who do not mind paying a proper price for a Trained Nurse can obtain her. But, as a matter of fact, there are multitudes of people who do not know where to apply, and who are quite unable to gauge the qualifications of a Nurse whose services they may happen to employ.

"A COMMON Register of Trained Nurses could not fail to obviate, to a considerable extent, the existing difficulty. A Nurse who could prove that she was on the Register of an incorporated association, officially recognised as the proper body to grant certificates of competence, might fairly claim to occupy the same position in her profession as the registered medical practitioner does in his. The analogy is not, of course, perfect, inasmuch as the quack doctor is a much more dangerous person to the health of the community than the imperfectly trained Nurse, whose instinctive womanly capacity often makes up for the lack of specific training. But, looking at the whole matter broadly, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the diploma of such an Association as this would be valued, as it would certainly deserve to be valued, alike by the members of the Nursing profession and by the public in general. The spirit of the age is altogether opposed to the existing slipshod and unscientific laxity which permits any woman who has nothing more profitable to do, to confer upon herself an imaginary diploma as a Trained Nurse."

THE *Queen* says :—"The Royal British Nurses' Association has just issued the first annual volume of the Register of Trained Nurses. This is a valuable result of the unwearied efforts of the association, under their Royal president, Princess Christian, to place the Nursing profession upon a higher plane. To the public the association has performed an even greater service, for every private individual engaging a Nurse whose name is in this list will have the assurance that he has obtained the services of a thoroughly qualified person. Applicants for Registration

must produce proof that they have been engaged for three years in work in Hospitals or Infirmaries, of which not less than twelve months must have been spent in a recognised general Hospital containing at least forty beds. Already many hundreds of Nurses have complied with these conditions, and there is little doubt that, in course of a short time, it will become a *sine qua non* that every Trained Nurse should possess a certificate of her Registration."

THE *Daily Telegraph* thus comments on last Thursday's meeting of the R.B.N.A. :—"Ever since its foundation in 1887, the British Nurses' Association has met with strenuous opposition from the authorities of certain Nurse-training schools and hospitals. The committee of Lady Blomfield's Pension Fund for Nurses having expressed a desire to transfer their accumulated capital of £4,000 to this society, the necessity arises for the latter to become incorporated; but efforts are being made in certain quarters to thwart this scheme, and to compel the association to be registered as a trade concern, in which event Princess Christian would have to resign the post of president. Yesterday her Royal Highness attended a meeting of the General Council, held to consider the situation, and it was explained that the organisation was entitled to be incorporated under the 23rd section of the Companies Act of 1867, which relates to charitable bodies; and an emphatic protest was entered by Sir William Savory, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. Pavy, Mr. Brudenell Carter, and other influential speakers against the 'persecution' to which the association had been subjected. A resolution in favour of the Register of Trained Nurses was carried by acclamation."

MISS EMILY JONES has been appointed Night-Superintendent at the Whitechapel Infirmary. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's, and is a lady of great mechanical ability. Miss Jones has just invented and patented an excellent contrivance, an india-rubber covering for china bed-pans, slippers and baths, which, upon being inflated with either air or water, proves of the greatest comfort to helpless patients. These articles are being manufactured by Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, and will soon be in the market.

In laying the foundation stone of a new wing of the National Orthopædic Hospital, the Marquis of Lorne lately pleaded earnestly for £2,500 still needed to complete the extension. His lordship created a good deal of amusement by observing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)