

an advantage if those who undertake to attack a body of working women would cultivate some slight degree of accuracy. St. Bartholomew's, the oldest and most important Hospital in the kingdom, has taken the foremost part in advocating Registration; the Middlesex and University College Hospitals have throughout strongly supported the introduction of the system; many of the professional staffs of Guy's, the Royal Free, St. Mary's and St. George's Hospitals are numbered amongst the best known members of the Association. St. Thomas's, the London, King's College and Westminster are apparently voting solid against Registration, and to these should be added the Treasurer and Steward of Guy's Hospital. The true facts then are that at seven out of eleven large General Hospitals in the Metropolis the professional workers—those in fact who are best able to judge upon such a purely professional matter—are strongly supporting the system of Registration of Nurses. When we inquire as to provincial Hospitals, the same facts are even more evident. We doubt if there are twenty large Institutions which oppose Registration. We learn on excellent authority that there are one hundred and seventy British and Colonial Hospitals, the Matrons and Medical men of which are its advocates. We congratulate the Association most heartily that its enemies have compelled it to take action and to exhibit its strength, because from all we hear from different parts of the country it is clear that an overwhelming expression of professional confidence in the work of the Association will shortly be expressed.

So the assertion that all the Hospitals oppose the Association is ridiculously untrue, and need not further be discussed.

But let us presume for the sake of argument that the lay authorities of every Nurse-Training School in the kingdom announced their unanimous intention to oppose the Association and its work of Registration. What would or could then happen? So long as Medical men for their own sakes and for the sake of the sick desired some such easily consulted guarantee of a Nurse's technical training as a public Register affords; so long as Nurses for their own sakes and for the sake of their calling desired some clear distinction to be made between trained and untrained workers such as a public Register makes; so long as the public for its own sake desired to be protected from ignorant and untrustworthy women terming themselves Trained Nurses—Registration will continue and advance

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in success and usefulness, however Dukes, Doctors of Divinity, and Distillers (all excellent men in their way) may protest and fulminate against it. The Training Schools for Nurses may grind the faces of their women workers while they are in their service. The London Hospital authorities may continue to deceive the public and send out pupils from their Wards when they are asked for the "thoroughly trained Nurses" they advertise their intention to supply. They may continue to wring £1,200 a year nett profits out of their employées. But when the Nurse has gained her hardy earned certificate at any Training-School, when she has escaped from its servitude, she passes away from her Hospital, and it never knows nor cares anything more about her. Until now she imagined perhaps that she became once more a free person in a free country. But the lay authorities of a few Hospitals find that it will be inconvenient to their proceedings if Trained Nurses register in a published book their names and addresses and the certificates which their Hospitals have given them, and therefore they calmly propose to prevent them—if they can—taking such a course.

The public mind is confused; for the question is new, and it is difficult to understand. But it is rapidly being made clear now, and in a very short time, with this most beneficial publicity, will be understood by everyone. And when it is realised that a few laymen who have been entrusted by the charitable public with the management of certain Hospitals are using that position of trust in order to dictate to a body of three thousand women working in all parts of the kingdom, and that these gentlemen absolutely have the impertinence to attempt to prevent these women placing their names upon a Register, when they are so desirous of doing so as to be even willing to pay for the privilege, such a storm of ridicule will be aroused, that the opposition to Registration will be dispersed like the chaff before the wind. We counsel the prominent opponents of the Association, while they yet have time, to ascertain the state of professional feeling upon this subject, and then we trust they will abandon their utterly untenable position before public attention is aroused to ask the pertinent question—Why are these Hospitals trying to prevent Nursing reform, and the protection of those who maintain Hospitals, from ignorant and untrustworthy Nurses? They are not only throwing stones in glass houses, these gentlemen.

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