

to stem the rising tide. In concluding, he moved a vote of thanks to the Princess Christian for her presence at the meeting.

The vote was carried with enthusiasm.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE PRESS.

WE have the utmost pleasure in calling our readers' attention to the following articles from the leading daily paper and the leading medical journal in the British Empire—asking them to note how closely these influential organs support the views which we have unceasingly expressed in these columns about the Association and its opponents.

The *Times* says :—

“Princess Christian presided last week at a meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held for the purpose of asserting the right of the Association to avail itself of privileges which are conferred by law upon many other kindred societies. The Association, it will be remembered, was founded by Her Royal Highness, who has from the first been its president, and has taken a warm interest in its proceedings. Its declared object was to combine Nurses for mutual help and protection, and for the general furtherance of their professional work ; and, among other means to these ends, were to be the establishment of a Register, on which should be entered the names only of Nurses who had undergone a complete Hospital training ; the delivery of lectures or the reading of papers, to be followed by discussions ; the holding of meetings, including an annual *conversazione* ; the establishment of homes of rest ; the assistance of worthy Nurses who might be in ill-health or in any temporary distress, and so on. Most of these projects have already been brought into practical operation in an eminently satisfactory manner, insomuch that the Queen has been graciously pleased to direct that the Association should assume the prefix of “Royal.” Except in the case of the Royal Family, membership of the Association is confined to Trained Nurses and to members of the Medical profession ; and many of the leading Physicians and Surgeons of the Metropolis, as well as several in provincial towns, have joined the Association, and have helped it by accepting office on the Council or on the Committee of Management. More than three thousand Nurses have already been enrolled. The members, both of the Medical and of the Nursing professions, have from the first attached great importance to the proposed Register, it being well-known that many women seek employment, describing them-

selves as Nurses, whose training has not been sufficiently long, or sufficiently careful, to justify them in the use of the designation, or to qualify them for all the duties which a Nurse at the present day is expected to perform. It was felt that a Register which should include only those Nurses who had undergone a proper training would be calculated to protect the public and the medical profession against persons whose incompetence they otherwise might not discover until it was too late ; for many women who profess to be Nurses have actually commenced Hospital training, and, for want of health, or of intelligence, or of aptitude, have been dismissed as unsuitable at an early period of their probation. In order to carry out this part of the work a Registration Board was formed, composed of Doctors and Nurses, and by them the qualifications of candidates have been examined, with the general result that a Register, containing seventeen hundred names, was published a few weeks ago and is now accessible to employers. The Register is open to all qualified Nurses, whether Members of the Association or not ; and the two lists are not identical. All who appear on the Register, even if not Members of the Association, have undergone the training stated against their respective names ; and hence it is easy to ascertain what facilities any Registered Nurse has had for acquiring the knowledge and skill necessary in her calling.

“The publication of the Register, however, has been seen with great alarm by the authorities of some of the Nurses' training schools, which are, as a rule, establishments connected with the great metropolitan Hospitals. The authorities of these training schools have hitherto been accustomed to have their own certificates accepted without question ; and they appear to be disquieted at the appearance of a book which will probably supersede their privileges in this respect, and which will undoubtedly lead to a uniformity of standard which does not now exist. The Association has lately been offered funds for certain of its purposes ; and, in order to accept and administer these, it is desirable that it should be placed under the protection of the law by Registration as a friendly society. Such societies, when established for any commercial purpose, are described as ‘limited,’ but in the case of one which is formed in order to promote any charitable or other useful object, and which will not pay any dividend to its members, the Board of Trade is empowered to permit the omission of the word, which in this case, if attached, would render it unusual, and perhaps impossible, for the Princess to retain her position at the head of its affairs.

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