

"The Association was known to be approaching the Board of Trade for the purpose of being allowed to omit the word 'limited,' and the training schools, or some of them, have seized upon the opportunity for seeking to embarrass it, and have petitioned the Board against the grant of the permission, in the hope, as it would appear, either of crippling the financial work of the Association, or of depriving it of the advantages of Her Royal Highness's patronage and support. The question at issue is a very simple one, and will no doubt be determined by the Board of Trade in accordance with law and precedent; but impartial people will hardly approve of an opposition which does not appear to have any justification in the public interest, but which aims only at injuring a body which has already done useful work, and which has been established and conducted, with due regard to the public welfare and convenience, for the advantage of the members of a calling to which great numbers of the sick have owed their recovery from illness. At the recent meeting, in the presence of Princess Christian, the objects of the Association were emphatically approved by several distinguished physicians and surgeons, and the registration which is asked for appears to be in accordance with the general wish of the medical profession, who, from the circumstances of their position, are probably the best judges of the manner in which a high standard of Nursing efficiency is most likely to be attained, and who are certainly, of all persons, those most interested in securing it."

*The Lancet* says:—"The special meeting of this Association, of which a report appears in another part of our impression, was held under distinguished auspices, and pervaded by a sanguine confidence amply justified by the circumstances of the gathering and of happy augury for the future of the society. The supporters of the society had legitimate ground of congratulation upon the excessive zeal that has precipitated their assailants, as we pointed out a few weeks ago, into an attack which is wholly premature and largely mistaken. The advertisement which appears to day (p. 63) invites 'any person, company, or corporation' objecting to the application which is being made on behalf of the Association to the Board of Trade to address the assistant secretary of the railway department upon the subject. The application itself is merely for leave to omit from the title of the Association the inapt word 'limited,' and on this issue the only considerations which the board can take into account are such as go to show whether the revenues of the society are to be turned to profit for its members or exclusively employed in the promotion of some useful object. If we rightly

understand the terms in which its objects are set out, it is to this latter class that they must be referred, and no doubt can exist in any mind that the intention of the promoters is to foster, not private gain, but public advantage and charitable relief. If this is made clear upon the application now pending, the assent of the Board of Trade to the promoters' request cannot be withheld, and critics who propose to enlighten the assistant secretary as to their private views upon collateral matters, such, for example, as the utility of the new Register, would do well to spare their pains and save their objections for another tribunal. It is transparently clear that the opposition which has been organised at the present moment is not directed to those financial considerations which alone are material to the discussion of the question whether the Association shall be entitled 'limited' or not. But the supporters of the movement were well advised, we think, to go beyond the limits of strictly relevant argument, and meet the criticisms which have been levelled at their scheme with such very satisfactory answers, based on the merits of their case, as found expression in the speeches of Sir James Crichton Browne and his colleagues on the platform at the British Nurses' Association meeting."

Last week we quoted a leading article on the same subject from the *Morning Post*. There is no difference on the matter between the most widely diverse organs in the Press, as, for example, the following from the *Pall Mall Gazette* proves, but it characteristically goes to the root of the whole thing at once.

"The determined opposition to the Royal British Nurses' Association on the part of some of those engaged in the training of Nurses has now taken the form of opposing a very ordinary and unobjectionable application to the Board of Trade. The Association, which exists for the purpose of registering Trained Nurses, has reached a stage in its development when it is desirable that it should be registered itself, as a friendly society; and being of the non-commercial order of friendly societies it has applied for leave to omit the description 'limited.' This leave the Board of Trade is empowered to give in such cases, and the opposition seems to be purely factious. The object of the Association is to give the public the same guidance in the case of qualified Nurses as it already possesses in the case of Doctors and chemists, by setting up a certain standard of training and registering those Nurses who come up to it. The great opponent of the scheme is the Matron of the London Hospital and head of its training school, an official whose opposition might have inclined laymen to avoid

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