

know the facts—which times without number we have stated in these columns—that the great majority of Hospitals, and the vast majority of medical men and Nurses, are strongly in favour of Registration. If it does not know the facts it is absurdly unsuited for the position it has assumed. If it does know the facts it has made a second most absurd misstatement.

It is next asserted that the annual report of the Association was "recently issued." It was issued, we find, in October, 1890, which proves how hazy our contemporary is in its narration of the simplest facts.

But now we come to the most astonishing "perversion" of which we ever remember to have read. It is stated that "Doctors, Matrons, and Nurses alike" are in direct opposition to the Association; and continues thus:—"This will be seen at a glance by comparing the number of the three classes of members as given in the accounts for the periods and year ended June 30, 1889 and 1890 respectively. The following table brings out the facts clearly:—

Period or Year ended 30th June.	Life Members.		Doctors and Matrons at 10s. 6d. each	Nurses at 2s. 6d. each	Total Members.
	Matrons and Sisters.	Nurses.			
1889	28	230	452	2,746	3,456
1890	3	111	170	1,687	1,971
Decrease in 1890	—	—	282	1,059	1,341

Now, of course, no Nurse who respects her calling continues to read a paper which incessantly abuses the only professional union of Nurses. And it well exemplifies the opinion which the *Hospital* entertains of its readers, that it should expect them for one single moment to swallow the above quoted and amazingly distorted figures. Because the page in the Report, from which the figures for 1889 were taken, is headed thus—"Statement of Income and Expenditure from 7th December, 1887, to 30th June, 1889"; in other words the numbers represent the payments of Members in two years—1888 and 1889. The object of the statement becomes plainer when one reads the passage and table over again, because then the significance of the word "period" becomes apparent. The writer knew perfectly well that the "period" meant two years, but he desires his readers to believe that it means one. Such paltry "evasions" are almost too contemptible to be noticed. But it is interesting to see to what desperate shifts exaggeration leads. The writer to help his argument is compelled

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to make out that in 1889 the Association had obtained 3,456 Members, whereas in the very Report which is quoted, it is distinctly stated that only "2,537 Members have been enrolled." Then again, in the "total Members" for 1890 the writer carefully omits to count those who became Life Members before 1889—258 in number!

It is of course impossible for us to know how many Members paid their subscriptions in 1888 and 1889, but dividing the figures for the two years by two will probably give an approximately accurate result, and then the figures would stand thus—a very different matter, as our readers will agree.

Year ended June 30.	Life Members.		Doctors and Matrons at 10s. 6d. each.	Nurses at 2s. 6d. each.
	Doctors and Matrons.	Sisters and Nurses.		
1889	14	115	226	1,373
1890	3	111	170	1,687

But the assertions, based upon the utterly misleading figures given above, continue thus:—"It thus appears that the total number of Members who have paid their subscriptions, and may therefore be properly deemed to belong still to the Royal British Nurses' Association, according to the last Report, is 1,857 only, to which we must add 372 Life Members, making in all but 2,229 Members."

Once more our lack of official connection with the Association prevents us from efficiently refuting its opponents. But two facts are so plain that they cannot be denied, and must have been transparently clear even to the writer of the article upon which we are commenting. At the date of the Annual Meeting in August, 1890, a month after the accounts were audited, there had been only "2,910 Members enrolled," an increase on the previous year at the rate of 30 per month. Consequently, at the end of June there should have been about 2,880 Members, or 650 only who by June 30 had not paid their subscriptions, which were due on January 1. If we imagine that, in the two and a-half years, one out of every hundred had died, or married, or resigned her Membership from other causes—an estimate which everyone acquainted with the working of societies will concede is by no means extravagant—we have 150 out of the 650 accounted for, leaving only 500 behind-hand for six months in paying their subscriptions. Quite sufficient to account for the remonstrance which we observe Miss Wood made on the subject at the Annual Meeting; but considering that large numbers of the Members

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