

"Opposition still rages hotly against the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a number of eminent medical men who are among its supporters make vigorous protest in this morning's *Times* against the tactics of their opponents. There may or may not be faults of detail in the scheme of the Association; but there is no getting over the broad facts that, as things stand at present, any woman can call herself a Trained Nurse, and any certificated Nurse who has proved herself unworthy of trust can, nevertheless, continue to follow her occupation. A society which aims at protecting the public against the consequences of this laxity by keeping a Register of competent Nurses must, in the long run, secure public confidence."

THE *Women's Herald*, which is publishing a series of interesting articles on "The Profession of Nursing," from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's pen, remarks in last week's issue:—"The Royal British Nurses' Association have now issued a Register of Trained Nurses which will in future be published annually. It contains the names, addresses, and particulars of Hospital training of many hundreds of Nurses, and is a highly valuable record. There is an influential Registration Board of medical men and Hospital Matrons who investigate each certificate before entering the name on the Register, and who wisely reserve the power to strike off from the roll any woman who shall prove unworthy of her high office and the great trust reposed in a Trained Nurse. It is a matter of surprise such a Register has not been issued long ago, and very soon any Nurse whose name is not on the Register will be regarded as unqualified. The Registration of Nurses is, in view of the late Hospital scandals, a very necessary protection to the public as well as to the Nurses, the revelations before the House of Lords' Select Committee having very conclusively proved that at least one London Hospital, which professes to send out 'thoroughly trained Nurses,' has sent out inexperienced pupils. The office of a Nurse is a sacred one. In her hands are often, humanly speaking, the issues of life or death. Want of good Nursing in a typhoid case would assuredly be fatal, and all the skill of the cleverest medical men is as nothing if the Nursing be inefficient. The public will do well to study the annual Register of Nurses, while the Nurses themselves for their own protection should take the necessary steps to register themselves."

WE know the Duke of Westminster in the character of a generous helper of the sick poor, and appreciative of the arduous duties of a Nurse—and greatly regret that by signing the weak and bombastic tirade against the Royal British Nurses'

Association, which appeared in last week's *Times*, he has laid himself open to so much ridicule. A man of the best possible intentions, and of such lofty aims, but necessarily slight experience in professional matters, should have heard both sides before condemning one. We are glad, however, to report the excellent work done by the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association, under the able superintendence of Miss Mansell, and of which the Duke of Westminster is president.

THE fifteenth annual meeting of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association was held in the Rubens Room at Grosvenor House, under the presidency of the Duke of Westminster. Mr. Rathbone, M.P., Mr. W. S. Caine, and Mr. Arnold White were among those present. The Executive Committee reported steady and encouraging progress during the year. The agreement with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, whereby the Association was appointed as the central Training School for the Queen's Nurses in England, had remained in force during the past year. The number of cases nursed was six hundred and eighty-six, and the number of visits paid twenty thousand. The Duke of Westminster, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that during the fifteen years the Association had been at work it had very materially and effectually assisted the cause they all had at heart, and given an example to other associations and the cause of Nursing generally. They had established their system on a sound and thoroughly practical basis. Nothing could be more satisfactory than to see the enormous progress made in Nursing, and they might claim some credit for their work in this direction. Those who remembered Paris at the time of what he might call the last wretched Empire knew that the streets were swarming with soldiery in every direction. They had a very different thing in London. They saw what they could not have seen a few years ago—numbers of Nurses going on their ways in the course of their beneficent work. Nurses were of far more benefit than soldiers at the present time. There was an enormous field for women's work here. Perhaps the time might come when there might be men Doctors for men, and women Doctors for women; but, at all events, Nursing was a field entirely for women, free from any jealousy on the part of men. And he believed that at present the demand for good Trained Nurses was greater than the supply. He looked for the time when every town and village of any considerable size would have a supply of Nurses trained by their Association. Mr. Arnold White seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. W. S. Caine moved, "That

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