

will allow themselves to be hoodwinked in this manner. The Association is calculated to confer an immense boon upon the public, and its very organisation and the distinguished members of the profession who are identified with it, are sufficient guarantees, for most persons, that the Association is not only worthy of the support of the profession, but also of the public generally. The Association has the approval of the medical Press throughout the country, almost without exception, and medical men, above all others, will soon presumably begin to feel the advantages it confers by enabling them to engage Nurses in whom they can trust. Perhaps the issue, both of the first Register and the first number of the journal of the Association have been too much for those 'private individuals' to which the protest in question refers."

THE *Philanthropist* says:—"The Members of the R.B.N.A. have from the first attached great importance to the publication of a Register of qualified Nurses, it being well known that many women seek employment, describing themselves as Nurses, whose training has not been sufficient to qualify them for all the duties they are expected to perform; and, as a result of the efforts of the Board appointed to carry the matter to an issue, 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 all who appear on the Register, even if not Members of the Association, have undergone the training stated against their respective names. The publication of the Register, however, seems to alarm 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 appear to be disquieted at the appearance of a book which they fear will supersede their privileges.

"WE are unable to share in this fear. It seems to us that so far from the Register decreasing the prestige of the Training School, it is only on the prestige of the Training School that the Register has its *raison d'être*, or can have any value at all. We might as well suppose that the prestige of the medical examining and licensing bodies is affected by the publication of the "medical Register" (which is made possible only by that prestige), as to suppose that the value of the certificate of a Training School is affected by the Registration of such Nurses as hold it. Whether the Register will be as much consulted as the promoters hope is another matter—we doubt if

the medical Register itself is much conned by the public—but that a Register of Nurses will affect the status of a Training School is to suppose an impossibility: a diploma will always be greater than a list.

"WE have never quite understood the causes of the opposition which the foundation of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and its intention to institute a Register, have evoked. The whole design and principle has seemed to us not only harmless, but possibly beneficial. It has accomplished much. It is now an existent factor in matters affecting the Nursing profession. Those who think it is not perfect might well propound schemes for its improvement. Their present privileges cannot, of course, be taken from the Schools, and so long as the Register is confined to recording their certificates it has a great possibility of good. The desire to establish a Register wherein any person may ascertain the qualifications of a Nurse without even the implied distrust of questioning her, seems to us good in itself; certainly such a Register should be as harmless as the medical Register, and hardly less beneficial and important to the medical profession and the general public."

I TOLD last week how the Committee of the Gloucester Infirmary had not followed the lead of a few other Hospitals and condemned the R.B.N.A. unheard. I have just heard from Worcester that "the Committee of the General Infirmary also made inquiries as to the Association's side of the case, and then unanimously decided to take no action with reference to the Petition to the Board of Trade against the Association."

IN these columns, on April 24, I stated that "The Worcester City and County Nursing Institution has recently started a maternity district branch at the Wychside of Malvern, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Mrs. Heywood." Dr. Grindrod writes me to say that *his* house, where he receives patients, is called "Wychside," and that the "branch" alluded to exists at "The Wyche," a village over the eastern slope of the Malvern Hills.

THERE is no questioning the severity of the influenza epidemic. From all parts I hear of its ravages. Nearly all the recognised Nursing Institutions are feeling the exceptionally heavy demands upon their Staffs. In Liverpool it appears to be very severe, and I regret to learn that the Matron of the Northern Hospital in that city has been seriously ill with it.

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