

short, for the word had been passed round that the Princess had come to London on purpose for the ceremony, and had to return to Windsor at once. And so in less than half an hour the most interesting and eventful meeting of the General Council was over. But the effects of the short and simple ceremony will be very far-reaching. Already, through the length and breadth of the kingdom, the daily papers have given long accounts of the Association and its work, and gratefully acknowledged the great benefits to the public which will result from the system of Registration, which has now been inaugurated.

WE have not space, or it would be interesting to quote freely from our contemporaries. The *Manchester Examiner* is the only paper which clearly does not understand the subject. We have been rather surprised on several previous occasions by this enterprising journal possessing such badly informed writers. It now talks of the "Medical Society" having "offices in Hanover Square," when every professional person is aware that that ancient body has its house in Chandos Street, Cavendish Square. It announces that "the Princess was received by Sir William Savry (*sic*) and the Executive Committee," a body which I see consists of thirty-six ladies and gentlemen, an inconveniently large reception, most people would imagine. But I must find room for the three following typical extracts.

THE *Evening News and Post* writes: "A work of national importance has been initiated and carried a good way on the road to completion during the last three years by the moving spirits of the British Nurses' Association, the General Council of which met on January 9th under the presidency of Princess Christian. To this gracious lady belongs a great deal of the credit of the movement. She is one of the most active of the workers of the Association as well as the president of it; and it was by her influential co-operation and the prestige of her name, both lent at a time when the organisation was little known and much misunderstood, that the British Nurses' Association turned the doubtful corner of its career, and began to make such rapid strides towards success. The objects of the Association are: (1) To protect the public from ignorant and untrustworthy women terming themselves trained nurses; and (2) to assert the principle that the control of the Nursing profession should be vested solely in professional hands. The first object is altogether admirable, and will commend itself to everyone; the second seems fairly calculated to aid in the attainment of the first."

THE *Manchester Guardian* commenting on the speeches says: "Such progress is remarkable, and is undoubtedly due in a large measure to the kindly activities and patronage of Her Royal Highness, who placed herself at its head at a time when the Association had to encounter much opposition and misrepresentation."

THE *Morning Post* devotes an Editorial to the subject, and amongst other kind remarks makes the following, which are well worthy of notice:—"It might, perhaps, have been supposed that a movement having for its object the regular organisation and effectual supervision of members of the Nursing profession would have been received with unanimous favour alike by the members of that calling and by medical men, whose success in practice is so largely dependent upon the assistance they receive from Nurses. Indeed, it seems somewhat strange that the movement should only have come into existence so recently as three years ago. In an age of organisation in every profession and calling one might have expected such a scheme at an earlier date. As a matter of fact, however, the fundamental principle of the Association—or, at all events, its practical application—has met with considerable opposition."

"IN the summer of 1889 the proposed Registration of Nurses called forth a protest, in the form of a letter which appeared in these columns, signed by a number of medical men intimately connected with the working of various London Hospitals, as well as by the Matrons or Superintendents of the Nursing Staff at several of those institutions. The subscribers to that protest were of opinion that the proposed enrolment of Nurses in a common Register would lower the position of the best Trained Nurses, would be detrimental to the advancement of the teaching of Nursing, and would be disadvantageous to the public and the medical profession. Without in any way questioning the high authority of the opponents of the scheme, we cannot but believe that the general principle of Registration will prove to be sound in its application to the great body of Nurses and Midwives, who at present are free to practise upon the public an art concerning which they may be more or less ignorant."

"IT is not needful to go so far as to assert that the Registration of Nurses is as necessary as the Registration of Doctors. A comparatively ignorant Nurse may be a much less dangerous individual than an imperfectly qualified general practitioner. But she is dangerous enough for all that, and it certainly seems a reasonable thing, on

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