

amusing journal. They are clearly a quasi-defence against the criticisms which have been so frequently passed upon the conduct of that particular journal with regard to the Royal British Nurses' Association. And undoubtedly the plea for mercy is necessary. It is common knowledge how absolutely insensible to courtesy or fairness of any kind the paper in question has shown itself, and how, in oblivious disregard of truth, it has dealt many very foul blows—accusing defenceless women of being thieves, &c. Now we are told that such cowardly and false attacks are due to "desperation," and that these are "last wild efforts." There is no doubt about the wildness of the efforts, and we can only express our pleasure to hear that they are nearly finished.

EVERYONE KNOWS now the reason for the rage and fury of our contemporary. In fervent hope, it prophesied three years ago, that the Royal British Nurses' Association would only live a few months. And behold to-day it is strong and hearty. With piteous pathos, our contemporary has again and again made believe that the Association was approaching dissolution. And then has ensued a wild outburst of wrath, causing intense amusement to everyone, when it was discovered that some fresh scheme had been carried successfully through. The application to the Board of Trade by the Association has aroused our poor contemporary to the verge of frenzy, and in the misleading statements which it has made about this simple matter it has quite outdone its previous performances. The Association applied to the Board to permit it to omit the word "limited" after its name, if it registered itself at Somerset House as a limited liability company, a simple privilege frequently granted to very small and obscure bodies, such, for example, as the Midwives' Institute.

ELEPHANTINE exertions have been put forth by the enemies of the Association to persuade the Board of Trade to refuse this privilege. The country has been systematically stumped for signatures to petitions. The only results are that gentlemen connected with about sixteen Hospitals have been deluded into signing their names to a number of statements which are entirely unfounded, false, and misleading. But the results have conclusively shown how greatly the Association has advanced in strength and influence in the last two years. At a score of important Hospitals, where formerly Registration was

A LADY writes:—"Your goods are a marvel of cheapness, and conclusively prove the great advantage of dealing direct with *real* manufacturers." Send for patterns to HARDMAN AND SONS, Fernhill Mills, Bury, manufacturers of blankets, serges, tennis and yachting flannels, &c. Specially low summer prices for blankets. Please name paper.

placidity protested against, the authorities now support the Association, or have flatly declined to move against it. We have made careful inquiries at some of these, and have been much struck to find how completely in accord they now are with the Association. In another couple of years at this rate the Association will have no opponents left. No wonder that its enemies are getting "desperate."

I HAVE just heard on good authority that the question of the Badge for the R.B.N.A. has been settled by the Executive Committee. The replies received from members showed, it seems, that there were about ten in favour of the Badge to one against its institution. The general idea seems to be that the committee will select the form and material, and that the next Council Meeting will be called upon to decide under what conditions it shall be obtained and worn by members. There can be no doubt that it will be very popular; and this Journal can take pretty considerable credit, I think, for the share which it has taken in bringing the subject forward, by affording members the opportunity of ventilating their wishes and views in its columns.

THE only reply which the opponents of the Association have been able to make to the crushing letter which we reprinted from the *Times*, last week, is the following:—

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.  
TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES."

SIR,—With reference to the letter which appeared in your columns on May 27, signed by Dr. Browne, Mr. Carter, and Mrs. Fenwick, will you allow me to say that, whilst expressing no views as to the question at issue, which is a matter for experts, I think it is matter for regret that advocates of the proposed Association should have condescended to personalities which are neither courteous nor dignified?

The titles of the governing officers of St. Thomas's Hospital, to which your correspondents refer, date from the time of Edward VI.

With regard to the present Treasurer, Mr. Wainwright, although it is true that he was only appointed Treasurer last July (more than three months, by the way), yet as a Governor, a Member of the Committee, and an almoner, he has been intimately associated with, and taken an active personal interest in, the working of every department of the Hospital during the past twenty-five years. It was on account of his wide experience and knowledge of Hospital matters that the Governors of the Hospital appointed him Treasurer by an overwhelming majority.—I have the honour to be your obedient Servant,

J. GRANT MILLS.  
St. Thomas's Hospital, Albert Embankment, S.E.,  
May 28.

The historical fact relating to his late Majesty King Edward VI., and the biographical memoir of Mr. J. G. Wainwright, are more interesting to the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital than to the public, and are certainly no answer to the grave statements made against the concocters

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)