

most conclusive proof possible of the great success and influence already achieved by the Royal British Nurses' Association. So desperately afraid are its opponents of the growing influence and strength of the Association, that they have gone to the greatest expense and labour to prevent it being incorporated as the Royal British Nurses' Association; insisting that it should be compelled to add the word "Limited" to its name, as if it were a trading concern. It appears to be the rule at the Board of Trade to invariably insist on the addition if there be any decided opposition to the omission, and the Board has therefore declined to permit the Association to be registered at Somerset House except with this addition to its name. The Board of Trade does not pretend to judge upon the question of the Registration of Trained Nurses, as the opponents of the Association attempt to make the credulous believe; if they did so, the judgment, on such a matter, of the gentlemen engaged in controlling the Railway Department of the Board, would hardly, carry any very great professional weight. The whole matter, therefore, comes to this—that its opponents have succeeded in compelling the Association, if incorporated in the ordinary manner, to add the word "Limited" to its name; and that is the beginning and end of all they could do, and of all that, in their intense malice, they have been able to bring about. They are now attempting to prove that their elephantine exertions have had some damaging effect on Registration; whereas, the truth of the matter is, that the publicity which has been given to the system, and the clear statements as to its necessity which have been elicited, must have been of infinite service to the cause. This is referred to, we observe, in the May issue of the *Nurses' Journal*—the excellent organ of the Association. And from many independent sources, and from all parts of the country, we have heard accounts of the interest which has been awakened in the subject. Indeed, looking at the extremely doubtful value which incorporation under the Companies' Acts would be to the Association, there is certainly some ground for the rumour, which is now current, that the application for the licence of the Board of Trade has been merely a strategic move on the part of the Association, partly in order to find out where its opponents were gathered together, and partly to draw public attention to its Registration work. Whether these were the objects of the Association or not, it is certain that these ends have been amply attained. It is

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now known that in the last two years, while the influence of the Association has been steadily growing, the opposition to it has been steadily dying down. We have taken the trouble to look carefully into the latter matter, and have discovered many instances of Hospitals, and still many more of individual medical men, who, in 1889, opposed the Association because they did not understand its objects, but who in 1891, with its Register and its reports before them, have not only declined to continue their opposition, but have accorded the Association their passive approval, or even their active support. Truth is great, and has prevailed, in fact, with many.

So far as the Association is concerned—in the absence of official information—we can only judge by patent and published facts, and these show that every scheme until now adopted has been successfully inaugurated, and is being successfully conducted. The Registration of Nurses is an accomplished fact; and, unless current rumours are wrong, the system will prove to be, not only highly creditable to the Association, but largely profitable to its funds. The same remarks apply to the *Nurses' Journal*, which has, we are told, already done much, and is certain to do more, to bind the Members together, in whatever part of the world they are working. The Sessional Meetings, the annual gathering in the Provinces, and the Winter *Conversazione* have all achieved success, and have undoubtedly had a wide educational effect. The Holiday House, originated by, although not officially connected with, the Association, has been a most conspicuous success. Now, we are informed that the question of a Badge of Membership has been decided, and that some distinctive emblem is to be adopted. *En parenthesis*, we may express our great pleasure at this news, for the columns of this journal have undoubtedly been the means of arousing and eliciting the views of many Members upon this subject.

Our former prediction having been fulfilled, we will now go a step further. Judging by the results which have been achieved in the last three and a-half years, we prophesy that in another three and a-half years—that is to say, by the seventh birthday of the Association, in December, 1894—most of its present opponents will have become its friends; the remainder will be discredited, or powerless to impede its progress; and it will have obtained all it desires, and have attained very high rank amongst other professional bodies.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)