

formed that the Association had nothing to do with this; but it is so generally recognised now as the only representative Nursing body that in scores of papers the gift has been described as one from the Royal British Nurses' Association. The following paragraph from the *Graphic* proves the hold which Registration has taken on the public mind:—

"Leaving the limited local field, the benevolent instincts of Her Royal Highness have found further scope in directions which concern the whole nation. Apart from her efforts on behalf of particular institutions, it is to Princess Christian that the public owe that very valuable innovation, a Register of Trained Nurses, and that the Nurses of England owe a wider and more intelligent appreciation of their value and their rights than was ever before the case. Princess Christian is an expert in the all-important and purely womanly subject of Nursing, having passed her examinations with success in Ambulance Classes held in Windsor some years ago, and having also studied closely the details of the whole question, and written upon it with ability. That the Nurses of England should show their gratitude in substantial fashion, is, therefore, full of significance. That Her Royal Highness's presidency of the British Nurses' Association is a very real office is well known, but the work which it involves is performed with cordial good-will, as it is also with ample knowledge and ability."

THE following cutting from the *Queen* must be pleasant reading for the friends of the promoters of the scheme at the London Hospital:—

"The Nurses' Co-operation, at 8, New Cavendish Street, is flourishing. During the past three months the Nurses have attended over four hundred cases. The Treasurer's report to the General Committee on Tuesday last was exceedingly satisfactory, and the co-operation may claim to have proved that the large percentage exacted from their Nurses by the Institutions is exorbitant and unjust."

THE following from the leading medical journal—the *Lancet*—may be commended to the attention of the few weak-kneed Nurses who think the R.B.N.A. is in the slightest degree injured by the treatment accorded to it by the Board of Trade. In fact, the opinion is widely and influentially expressed, that nothing could possibly have occurred which is more likely to help the Association and its schemes. And judging by the way in which the Association has been managed hitherto, the splendid opportunity now given, will, I imagine, be fully utilised. If it had been allowed, like a village cricket club, to get the licence of the Board of Trade quietly, no one would have been a bit the wiser. Its enemies could not bear the idea of it obtaining the petty privilege of omitting the word "Limited." And they have been clearly most cleverly egged on because the whole country has rung, and I fully expect will ring again and again, with the name

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of the Association. Registration has been forced forward on public attention, and in a score of papers the London Hospital has been held up to reprobation for its treatment of the public and its Nurses. The opponents have overreached themselves. They have sown the wind and everyone begins to see they will have soon a regular whirlwind to reap. However, the *Lancet* says:—

"The deputation of British Nurses which last week waited on Princess Christian, for the purpose of presenting a commemorative gift upon the occasion of her silver wedding, was able to speak in terms at once accurate and satisfactory of the measure of success which has so far attended the undertaking to which the Princess has devoted much time and attention. Nor was their confidence any the less pronounced for the opposition by which they have been met. Largely mistaken, but also in some measure interested, that opposition has recently secured a most influential recruit in the person of the President of the Board of Trade, who has unfortunately been persuaded into undertaking the very unprofitable task of forming an opinion upon the merits of the work which the Association proposes to undertake, and the adequacy of its machinery to the purpose in view. If Sir Michael Hicks-Beach were called upon by law to pronounce an opinion upon such points, it would be fitting that he should have all the assistance which an inquiry would afford him, at which evidence could be taken, explanations afforded, and arguments submitted. But he has chosen to assume a burden which the Legislature has not assigned to him, and one consequence is that, having no means of holding such an inquiry as we have referred to, he has been led to form and express an opinion without even hearing those who advocate the project which he has condemned. Such a state of things is intolerable, and, if other resources fail, the matter must be brought before Parliament and set at rest, if necessary, by fresh legislation. Indeed, we understand that it is intended to ventilate the whole question in Parliament, and, in the present attitude of the Board of Trade, that seems very desirable. It may be, however, that the President of the Board of Trade is disposed of his own motion to reconsider his somewhat precipitate decision already announced, for we learn at the moment of writing that he has consented to receive, privately, a small deputation for the discussion of the subject. If so, we should be sorry to say one word that might tend in any way to embarrass his position. The work to which the promoters of the British Nurses' Association have set their hands, is too important, whether from the point of view of the public or from that of the Nurses, for them to court collision with the Board of Trade. If the matters in doubt are frankly and fully discussed, we are well satisfied that every reasonable assurance of the fitness of the promoters of the Association to carry out their project, and of the public utility of their work when done, can be afforded, and we readily recognise that this would be a more satisfactory solution of the present difficulty than the transfer of the discussion to another sphere."

NURSE REDDOCH, who was the successful candidate in the Twenty-second Post-Card Examination, has chosen for her prize Tennyson's "May Queen" and Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," both being pretty editions of very interesting works.

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