

tion to the general rule of success which has marked the career of the Association, and we have no hesitation, indeed, in expressing our belief that when the Charter is applied for it will be obtained. Whether that time be this year or next year, or ten years hence, is quite immaterial to the principle which we advance.

The other apparent exception to which we have alluded proves our contention still more forcibly. We refer to the application recently made to the Board of Trade to permit the Association to be registered as a limited liability company, but without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. This is a simple little privilege, but one which, as we have previously pointed out, has important consequences when trust funds are in question, seeing that the omission of the word not only removes an Association from the class of trading concerns which are registered as companies "limited," but also prevents its members from exercising the right bestowed upon the members of a business undertaking, incorporated in the usual manner, of causing their company to be wound up and all its assets to be distributed amongst the shareholders. It was, therefore, essential for the Royal British Nurses' Association, if it desired to take over trust funds to be expended for the benefit of Nurses, to be incorporated with this provision, and, indeed, it is manifest that few benevolent persons would entrust large funds to an Association to manage in perpetuity when its members might by legal proceedings cause such sums to be at once divided amongst themselves. Of course, those who oppose the Association are well aware of this fact, and have, therefore, strenuously resisted the grant of this simple privilege to the Association, and, strangely enough, they have, for the moment, succeeded in their object. It is announced that the Board of Trade have declined to accede to the application of the Association. But it is officially stated that the Association has not the slightest intention of accepting this decision as final, and we have not any doubt that it will succeed in turning the occasion to very great advantage.

The Board of Trade at about the same time refused to allow the British Institute of Preventive Medicine to be incorporated in this manner. But the leaders of the medical and scientific world expressed their feeling on the subject with such vigour that the decision was quickly withdrawn, and it is announced this week that the licence of the Board of Trade has been issued. The Institute is a newly-formed body,

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having for its chief object the discovery of means of preventing disease. The Association has existed for three years, and has been eminently successful in its work, besides drawing to itself in this brief space of time about one-fifth of the whole Nursing profession in this country. The President of the Board of Trade at first refused to licence the Institute, on the ground that it desired to undertake vivisection of the lower animals, and his licence might be held to mean that he approved of such proceedings; and he has finally granted the licence on condition that a clause should be inserted to the effect that this action on his part did not imply his approval of the objects of the Institute. The chief object of the Association, as several of our correspondents have pointed out, is by bringing about Registration of Nurses to prevent the sick being endangered as they are now by the carelessness of absolutely ignorant women. In other words, Registration is designed to prevent the enormous amount of vivisection of human beings which is now being increasingly practised. The opposition to the Association has been based purely and entirely on the ground of its Registration scheme, as evolved and carried on by eminent Medical men and well-known Hospital Matrons, and upon this opposition the Board of Trade has refused its licence.

So we arrive at this very curious condition of affairs: That Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has at one moment declined to give his approval to an Institute which may perhaps carry on vivisection of rats and mice, and in the next he has declined to give his approval to an Association which is striving to prevent the vivisection of human beings. The two positions are so inconsistent—indeed so antagonistic and so eminently ludicrous—that we imagine the Board of Trade will find endless ridicule poured upon it before the matter is decided. As for the Royal British Nurses' Association, it could hardly have desired or deserved a better opportunity for drawing public attention to the importance of the work in which it is engaged; and, as we have said, judging from past experience, there can be little doubt that the opportunity will be utilised to the fullest extent. From what we learn from different parts of the country, we are led to believe that in the result it will be found that legal Registration will be brought into great and rapid prominence by the action which has been taken by its opponents in misleading the President of the Board of Trade.

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