

is quite sufficient to show that if such privileges be given they will not be abused. There may be opposition to encounter, but Her Royal Highness will lead the way, we are proud to follow, and any difficulties will be met and overcome. (Loud applause.) I beg to propose the following Resolution:—

"That this meeting is of opinion that the Royal British Nurses' Association, which already includes one-fifth of the whole number of Trained Nurses estimated to be at work in this country, and which is managed by leading members of the medical and Nursing professions, is eminently worthy of public support and of incorporation by Royal Charter. And this meeting considers that the Association is well qualified to carry on the system of Registration of Trained Nurses which it has commenced as a voluntary measure, and that when fully carried out this system will protect the sick against untrained and untrustworthy workers, be of great assistance to medical men, and be most beneficial to Trained Nurses by furnishing easily obtainable information as to the education and experience which each Registered Nurse has received." (Loud applause.)

Sir J. CRICHTON-BROWNE: My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, it seems to me that the time has come for a public recognition of the Royal British Nurses' Association. A terrible epidemic has visited this country during the last few months, and has carried off many, not only the old and infirm, but those also in the first blush of promise, leaving behind it many kinds of debility in the survivors, and bringing home to all classes in the kingdom the great importance of good nursing. It is, I believe, certain that some lives have been lost by ignorant nursing during the influenza epidemic; but it is equally certain that thousands of lives have been saved by proper care on the part of Nurses; so that all who realise what hinges upon good nursing ought

now to come forward and support this Association, for it was founded to bring Nurses together, and for the purpose of securing to them the benefits given by federation; while at the same time, the public receive from it facilities for judging between really trained Nurses and those who are so only in name and in uniform, but who have no real acquaintance with the necessary duties of the sick-room. The place of our meeting to-day is singularly appropriate. What would the City of London be, but for its craftsmen, who joined together, making union, strength, for their several aims? The City Companies have played an important part in the history of England—a still greater part in the history of London; and the City, therefore, will surely give its support to a company asking, not for any special privileges, but merely permission to do a useful and much-needed work. I have said that the place is appropriate, and we are also fortunate in our Chairman, the Lord Mayor, who is a Welshman—(loud applause)—and has the imagination and faculty of realisation, which is the possession of the Celtic race and character. Our Chairman, then, can look beyond this hall and see the long Hospital Ward or the sick room in the private house, where disease and art are contending for the victory; and I feel sure that the British Nurses' Association will, from this day, have a warm supporter in the Lord Mayor. (Applause.) Some three years ago, I spoke in this hall, under the presidency of Lord Mayor Whitehead, and our Association was then, if I may use the term, incubating. We knew the evils against which we desired to contend, but our plans were vague and undefined; we knew our remedy, but were not decided in what manner it should be carried out. But to-day the Association exists in active life, and the prejudices against it have all but ceased to bear their ancient weight, because we know what we want to do, and we have made an actual, visible, tangible commencement of our work in the shape of our published Register. We, who have had to bear opposi-

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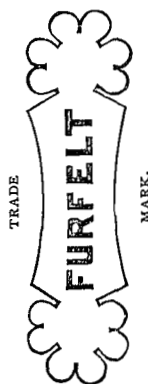
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