

begin with, they must congratulate them on their President and Vice-president, H.R.H. Princess Christian and H.M. the Empress Frederick of Germany. These two distinguished ladies unhappily know too well from sad personal experience the value of good Nursing, and their names were sufficient guarantee of the *bona fides* of the Association. Then the names of the medical men who are Vice-Presidents are as household words; many of them are men of European reputation, who can have no personal object to serve in supporting the Association.

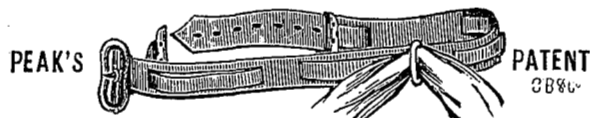
The Association also includes a large number of the leading members of the medical profession, the Matrons of over one hundred and fifty important Hospitals, of several large Nurse Training Institutions, and nearly three thousand Trained Nurses, almost one-fourth of the whole number of Nurses existing—counting good, bad, and indifferent. It is, therefore, rather a large and formidable body to pooh-pooh, and when they come before the Privy Council we may be sure that the Council will require some very weighty reasons before declining their request. In order to Register, Nurses are required to produce Certificates of good character; they must produce proof that they have been engaged for three years in Hospitals or Infirmaries, of which

not less than twelve months must have been spent in a recognised general Hospital containing at least forty beds. No woman who is unable to produce these Certificates is fit to be sent out to a case as a Trained Nurse. Every man into whose house a Nurse enters has a right to demand that she be competent and have a good character. No one takes a servant into his house without a character, and if one wants a character with a person who comes into the house to cook food and scrub and dust furniture, how much more necessary is it in the case of a Nurse who comes in to take charge of the lives of patients, on the proper performance of whose duties life may depend. Most medical men have suffered somewhat from bad Nurses of various kinds. Without going back so far as our old friends, "Sairey Gamp" and "Betsy Prig," we all of us know the Nurse dishonest and the Nurse bibulous, who is often "so disposed." This Association was started to relieve the profession and the public of this discomfort. It was known that many Nurses who, although they might hold Certificates of competency, honourably obtained in bygone days, were now unworthy of confidence. It was known that Hospital Certificates were constantly forged or stolen, and were used by persons who had no right to them, and that the women using them

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