

"of Nurses who were not in their service was no part of the duty for which Hospital Committees existed." Many, while declining to help, accorded their sympathy to the scheme. So matters stood at the end of 1889, when the British Nurses' Association, finding that the public danger and professional discredit, involved in the existing evils, tended more and more to increase, and hopeless of obtaining external help or assistance, itself undertook, as a last resource, the work of Registration. It opened a Register and enrolled those who voluntarily applied, and who were found to attain to the requisite standard. In 1890, the Association issued the first edition of the Register, showing that their scheme was simply the publication of an alphabetical list of Nurses' names, with their addresses and the name of the Hospitals at which they had worked, with the dates of their residence in each Institution. It is difficult to comprehend how a scheme could be more simple, and, considering that it is purely a voluntary matter, how one could be devised which would be less open to objection.

Nurses are free subjects of this realm, as it has been truly remarked. Who has the right to prevent them enrolling their names in a book, if they please so to do? The public and medical men are anxious to know who are, and who are not, trained Nurses. Who has the right to prevent the publication of a list of these women? A few persons have had the astounding audacity to assert, in so many words, that they will oppose Nurses doing this, and, also, the public obtaining this information. And as most of these persons are engaged in making money by deluding the public—by palming off ignorant women upon the sick as "thoroughly trained Nurses"—it is by no means astonishing that they object to the public being protected against their proceedings.

So we have seen, during the last two years, constant onslaughts being made upon the Association—because it has dared to publish a list of Nurses' names and addresses—and the most extraordinary falsehoods set abroad concerning its work. The Association applied in 1891, to the Board of Trade for the simple right to omit the word "Limited" after its

name if it were registered at Somerset House as a Limited Liability Company. The most unscrupulous misstatements were made by its opponents, which so alarmed the President of the Board, that, without giving the Association any intimation, even, of the charges brought against it—and without affording it any opportunity of defending itself, he peremptorily refused its request. The Association in order to obtain a public inquiry into the matter, has now applied for a Royal Charter, and there can be little doubt as to the effect upon the public mind, of the revelations of Hospital scandals which the Association could make, if it chose to do so.

This determined step has clearly demonstrated two things. First, that the Association is not only determined, but powerful; and secondly, that, therefore, the more, Hospitals oppose Registration, the greater attention they draw to existing scandals, the greater will be the public discredit which will fall upon them, and the sooner will the success of the Association be gained. We hear, from all sides, how deeply it is now regretted by its opponents that the Association was not, from the first, "left severely alone." For it is now manifest that had this been done, the public interest in the question which at present exists, would not have been excited, and it might have been many years before the subject had attained to its present importance.

Coincidentally, however, other things have happened. The Select Committee of the House of Lords has pronounced strongly in favour of the three years' training being essential, before Nurses can be sent out to private cases as "thoroughly trained." Signs are not wanting that the public will not only accept this dictum, but that medical men will only recommend and support institutions which conform to this rule. And, as this is the standard which has, from the first, been insisted upon by the Association, and which is maintained for Registration, it is manifest that the opposition to the Association and its work must inevitably tend to die down, in future. Because that opposition has chiefly proceeded from those who desire to maintain a lower standard for private Nurses, and who opposed Registration, in fact, because their

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