

fications for the duties imposed upon them. It was necessary they should have, as far as possible, one common interest, and to produce that interest they had formed that Association. It had at present no legal position whatever, except such as was granted to any subjects of the realm to enter into combination for their common interests. It was now proposed that more should be done, and endeavours were being made, and he trusted would prove successful, to get the Association a legal position in the country. An attempt was made to do this through the Board of Trade, but he confessed he was not sorry it failed (applause), for he looked upon their profession as so vitally important to the interests of the community that he thought they should aspire to something higher than to form it into a limited liability company. The petition for the Charter, which her Royal Highness Princess Christian had submitted to the Queen in Council, would, no doubt, be argued out before the Privy Council, and he thought there could be no moral doubt that the endeavour would be successful. But should it fail, he trusted they would still persevere, for even if they got the Charter it was not the end to which they should aspire. They should undoubtedly aim at placing the nursing profession of this country in precisely the same position before the law as the medical profession itself. He believed the time was not far distant when they would have a registration system acknowledged by Act of Parliament as advantageous to them as that of the medical profession or chemists and druggists (applause).

The opposition they had been met with had not done them any harm (applause). It was the natural course of all reforms that they should be opposed, and the better

the reform the greater, generally speaking, was the opposition it met with. The effect of that opposition should be to put the members of the Association on their mettle, and the truth was sure to prevail in the long run (loud and prolonged applause). Dr. Hollis had alluded to the difficulties of the Nurse in a sick room, but he (the speaker) had generally found that where the Nurse was firm and resolute in carrying out the orders of the medical man, and where she made it understood she meant to be obeyed, and insisted on carrying out the discipline of the sick-room, her difficulties were seldom of a very grave character (applause). The difficulties she experienced in the sick-room were that attempts were made to "sweat" her. He did not know whether he had yet made up his mind as regarded the eight hours rule for strong men, but he thought that a restriction of hours would be a very useful innovation amongst the Nursing profession, who occupied an atmosphere by no means the best, and were confined a great deal within doors. He believed that shortening the hours of work would be better for the Nurses and better for the sick and everyone connected with them (applause).—Miss Wood, said they did not want any words of thanks for their work; what they wanted was that their patients should get well as quickly as possible.

Dr. BEZLY THORNE proposed "The Chairman," remarking that they had always been fortunate in having gentlemen of great distinction to preside over them, and they were again most fortunate this year.—The MAYOR having briefly replied, the proceedings came to a close.—The afternoon was spent in various excursions, &c., the Sussex County Hospital and the Home of Rest for Nurses being thrown open to the visitors and refreshments provided.

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