

men and the nurses. But I proceed now to inquire who are my opponents, and what are the grounds of their opposition. Almost the whole opposition proceeds from the training colleges, training schools—or rather I should say some of them—and the Training Hospitals—those which train Nurses and derive a large part of their income from sending out their Nurses for employment. And I think it will be found on examination that a great deal of the opposition comes from people and Institutions who do not require that their Nurses should undergo a three years' training, which is the necessary period of training required before they could be put on our Register. Most of these Training Hospitals give a much shorter period of training. Of the petitions presented, the first and most important, owing to the name with which it is connected, is the petition of the Council of the Nightingale Fund. In the profession of Nursing, there is no name which is deserving of more respect and consideration than the name of Miss Nightingale. Those at the head of this Association are behind no one in their consideration for that name; but Miss Nightingale does not at present take herself any active practical part in the management or the work of Nurses. This is the petition of the Council of the Nightingale Fund, and it does not materially differ from the other two opposing petitions which are before your lordships. All the petitioners say they believe that such a list or register of Nurses as is contemplated by the Draft Charter would be regarded by the public as an authoritative guide in the selection of Nurses, and that registration therein would be considered sufficient guarantee of competence. That, I think, is paying a great compliment to the Association for which they ought to feel deeply indebted; but I think your Lordships will see that what is said as to registration in the Charter is something very different. The Association do not seek an exclusive right to register Nurses, nor do they seek to make it compulsory on trained Nurses to register. But already most of the training schools keep registers, and it would be open to any one to open further registers; and so, as the register of this Association is purely a voluntary matter, that belief of the opponents is baseless. The petitioners also said that the Association if incorporated would be enabled, by means of the position and dignity accruing from the possession of a Charter and by reason of the control they would have over the register, to acquire a real power of determining the qualifications requisite to constitute a trained Nurse, and of regulating and controlling the training and education of the whole body of Nurses. But your lordships will see that the Association disavows any desire—and the Charter would give it no power—to regulate the training of Nurses. They do not desire that liberty. It is far from the purposes of the Association to seek any control of the training and education of Nurses. They leave that entirely to the Hospitals and the Training Schools, who are engaged in that work. Let each Hospital and Training School train in such a manner as they think most suitable. All we seek to do is to have a register upon which anyone of the public seeking a Nurse, should be able to find one who has been trained, and be able to find out when and where she was trained. If Westminster Training School, or St. Thomas', or King's College train better Nurses than other Institutions, then from the Register the public could see whether so-and-so was trained at King's College, for so many years, or at some other Institution. How on earth that would give the Association "control over the education or training of the Nurses" I cannot conceive. I cannot but

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think that this is not the real objection to the Charter. If so, it arises from a total misapprehension as to the object, purpose, and aims of the Association.

Lord HOBHOUSE.—If you go beyond giving such information as you describe, you would break your Charter—you would be stepping beyond it.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—That I do not know, my lord. The most I can say is that the public would see the name of each nurse registered here, with her address, the hospital in which she has been trained—

Lord HOBHOUSE.—That is "information" only.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—Yes. We do not attempt to train. All we say is—We are prepared to put on our register, if the person has been trained—

Lord HOBHOUSE.—And if her references are proper.

Sir H. DAVEY.—Yes, if proper references are produced. That is an essential.

Lord HANNEN.—Did not a Committee of the House of Lords have this subject under consideration.

Sir H. DAVEY.—Well, as your lordships are aware, there was a Committee of the House of Lords on Metropolitan Hospital who sat and took evidence, and made a report in June 1892, and the result of the evidence given before the Committee, and the report was that no Nurse should be considered as entitled to be called a trained Nurse unless she had fulfilled certain conditions, among these being the conditions of a three years' training. They expressly state that they are of opinion that the period during which a nurse should study was three years. That also is entirely the opinion of medical men, and the first principal of those who have had to do with this Association from its institution. And they had now received the additional weight which will attach to it from the report of that Committee of the House of Lords after thorough investigation.

Lord HOBHOUSE.—What are the bounds within which you work under your proposed Charter; you are only entitled to give certain information. You say by your present regulations, those who have had three years' training. That regulation you may alter, and you may make it two years or you may make it four years.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—Yes, that may be; or if your lordships thought it necessary, your lordships might fix it.

Lord HOBHOUSE.—Then are not your opponents right when they say that the charter would give you a real power to determine the qualification of nurses.

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—No, it is only on the education that they so. We have not the control of the education. If they raise the quality of the education the register will show the higher qualification. Besides, it seems to be forgotten that the working of the Association is purely voluntary. There is no compulsion about it. There is not even a statute which says that no one could be employed as a Nurse who is not on the register. It depends upon the public. If it ceases to hold out any sound expectation that the persons found on the register are efficient it will cease to have any hold upon the public. If, on the other hand, it is extremely satisfactory, then the public will there find the names of a large number of persons who are really trained nurses, and find them easily. We only say this, that whereas now there is a large number of persons who are not fitted by experience and instruction to be or to call themselves Nurses, and yet are palming themselves off upon the public who have no earthly means of discovering whether or no they are trustworthy, this Association would put an end to that state of things. It would afford trained

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