

or hospital, not by any examination from "a foreign body" like that proposed by the British Nurses' Association." And then Mr. Rathbone goes on: "It is not only that those experienced in nursing work consider the proposal dangerous but I believe it is without precedent to give public official recognition to a body like this, who have no successful experience to produce against the protest of the great body of those who had been most instrumental in raising the standard of nursing and improving and elevating the position of Nurses." I should submit to your lordships that if this Association desires a Charter—I do not mean for the purposes of holding lands or funds, but with reference to this Register—they should undertake something more. If they said, we will guarantee and register Nurses; we will make inquiry as to what will be their duty; we will examine into what they have been doing year by year and every succeeding year—if that had been the scheme, well and good; that might be a very desirable adjunct to the present method. But when your lordships know, that if Miss Nightingale's experience is worth anything, before the training qualification, the moral qualification is more important, then that means a great deal. It is admitted that none of these things can be referred to directly or indirectly on the Register. Can it be desirable then to force the public to pay attention to that which is put by Miss Nightingale and by Mr. Rathbone as the minimum of qualification—giving an opportunity of gauging the degree of qualification—for all schools are of the same character, and giving no idea at all of the conduct of the nurse, or what she has been doing during her existence in the Association. I should like to call your lordship's attention to the memorial to the Board of Trade, but first I would refer to the Memorandum of Association. I take it that the proposal before the Board of Trade was a proposal analogous to that before your lordships to day, except for certain safeguards as to public interests in

the registration. The Memorandum and Articles of Association are on page 72 of our case. The objects of the Association are there stated to be—"to establish, promote, and further schemes for the benefit of nurses and midwives; to establish and conduct a benevolent fund to give pecuniary or other assistance to nurses and midwives in time of want, or of sickness, or of old age; to found and conduct holiday houses and convalescent houses for nurses and midwives; and 'to act as trustees or managers of any property,' &c., to combine with other institutions having objects wholly or in part similar; to associate nurses and midwives for mutual help and protection, and for the advancement of their professional work; and "to form, control, and carry on (1) a register of trained nurses; (2) a register of certificated midwives, and to determine from time to time what tests shall be satisfied by applicants for Registration as necessary to qualify for registration." In other words, it is identical with objects of this Charter. If the present Association is incorporated, this Charter contains nothing more specific than that they would determine from time to time what test should be necessary as evidence of skill. Then they are to "take over, control, and carry on the register." I need not read further. The Articles and the Memorandum of Association are on the very same lines. Well, our petition was presented to the Board of Trade, and it is set forth on page 796 of the report. There your lordships will see the names of the signatories. I am not here to count heads, or to weigh my friend's medical men with my medical men. It is not my kind of argument; but if we are to endeavour to weigh medical men by some popular standard as my learned friend seemed to do, I should not hesitate to invite your lordships to the trial. But I do not think that would be a dignified course for one to adopt in arguing an important question like this. There are many eminent medical men with me; but there is also

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