

the lay element to be considered—persons in control of the schools, but who have nothing to do with either making the by-laws or in the selection of nurses qualified to be put on the Register. We say it is not an Association to decide who should be put on the Register and who should not. No written or oral examination can possibly be a real estimate of their qualification as Nurses. We say that "the effect of the proposed Register of Nurses, by granting certificates of competency professing to be authoritative, while being necessarily imperfect and untrustworthy, would be to mislead instead of guide both the public and medical practitioners, and to lower the standard of nursing by placing numbers of insufficiently trained and inferior Nurses on the same level as their highly-trained and thoroughly competent sisters." Our petition further says: "That the authorities of the nurse-training schools are alone in a position, from their experience and special knowledge, and from their intimate acquaintance with the individual Nurses who have been trained under their care, to certify who are fit and properly trained Nurses, and that the certificates of efficiency given by them are sufficient and are infinitely more valuable and trustworthy than any certificate otherwise acquired could possibly be. That no Association, having for its object to test and guarantee by certificate the educational and other qualifications of its members, has ever yet had accorded to it such powers and privileges as the British Nurses Association aims at acquiring, until it has been shown by actual results that its action has been beneficial to the public and to the body it purports to represent, and that it has the support of the leading members, as well as of the large majority of the rank and file, of that body. The large nurse-training schools of Great Britain, including the Nightingale School, to whose labours the vast improvement which has of late years taken place in the education and status of the Nurses is wholly attributable, are, almost without exception,

unrepresented in the British Nurses' Association and are opposed to its registration scheme.'? Of all the number of metropolitan schools, where the immense amount of training goes on, only two, I believe, support this scheme, and the large number of others are opposed to it. If you go to the country, practically nine-tenths of the hospital training schools desire to prevent the system of registration in the scheme proposed for the acceptance of this Committee, My lords, I may refer to what Mr. Bonham Carter says, It is on page 34 of our case. He says: "No one will, at this time of day, deny that moral as well as professional qualities are everything in a nurse, that she has to be judged by her character and conduct as well as by her technical skill, by the possession of such qualities as kindness, patience, trustworthiness, self-control, discretion. How are these intangible things to be registered?" Then he refers to the nature of the nurses' duties, and goes on: "Training-schools vary greatly in their character. The institution may be said to be, as regards, by far the greater number of them, of comparatively recent date. Their methods are different, their standards of requirements are unequal, and although very considerable progress has been made, yet very much still requires to be done. It would be useless to attempt to force the growth of these institutions towards more advanced views by any legislative measures. Moreover, it cannot, I venture to think, yet be said that those who have the direction of hospitals and training schools, whether laymen or professional men had arrived at such a general concurrence of opinion as to the system to be pursued in the school and hospital, or in the standard of qualification to be required of a nurse, as will render it practicable or expedient to lay down any general conditions to which training-schools should conform, in order that their pupils may be entitled to admission on a general register. . . . Now, I come to this further con-

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