

good fee for a nurse they wanted a trained nurse, and not a quack; just as when they go to a medical man instead of going to a quack, it is of their own will, not that they are obliged to do it."

"I wanted to know whether your Association would seek merely for power to deal with the Nurses who might place themselves of their own accord upon your register, and with regard to whom it would be right that you should have power to deal with them yourselves, or whether you would wish to take any power to prevent Nurses from performing any nursing duties without your sanction? I believe that if a Royal Charter, or an Act of Parliament is granted that would be the effect, that no Nurse would be considered a trained Nurse, if she was not registered."

Mrs. Fenwick has been the main promoter of this application—she has done more to work up this agitation than anybody else, and I am justified in pointing out to your lordships her view at this time—in July 1890—was that the result would be that no unregistered Nurse would be considered a trained Nurse. May I point out to your lordships again, that assuming the qualification in itself to be a nominal one, they have admitted on the register a large number of Nurses who have not this qualification. But they applied a certain day of grace after which day no Nurse could come on to the register who had not undergone a certain period of training, which they fix at three years. Does not every step they have taken do something to show that it has been taken to do something to make the register speak to the public in the way in which Mrs. Fenwick wished it should do—namely that no Nurse should be considered a trained Nurse who was not registered. Assuming that a lady showed that tact, and that lightness of touch which I believe are absolutely essential for being a thoroughly good Nurse, but that her training has only extended over a year. Now the Association has said that they shall have three years' training, and although that lady proves as competent a nurse as can be suggested, she is excluded from the register, so that the result will be, if the petition is acceded to and the Royal Charter granted, that no nurse could be considered a trained nurse if she was not registered. I will again quote from Mrs. Fenwick's evidence—

"Your proposal is, in fact, to establish a close corporation? In the same way only as the medical profession is a close corporation.

"Have you ever considered what the result of that would be if it were applied throughout the country, would it not be likely to produce the most extraordinary embarrassment and difficulty?—I do not think so.

"Do you think there are likely to be a sufficient number of trained and certificated nurses provided to serve patients throughout the country?—With all the enormous amount of training going on now in our large hospitals, which are turning out more nurses than can get work, I think it is hard that they should have to compete in the open market with so many amateurs."

The minimum qualification the Association desires to see established is, I understand, three years, and if that were really to be the minimum it would reduce the present number of Nurses to about one-third, or in other words that there are most competent trained Nurses who have been carrying on their profession for years, who have not joined the Association, and who could not join the association if three years were to be the minimum. They would therefore be excluded from the category of trained nurses, and *ex hypothesi*, on the present statements as to the qualifications would be regarded by the public as not being qualified to call themselves trained nurses,

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Lord OXENBRIDGE.—You see in the reply of Mrs. Fenwick to the Earl of Kimberley on page 551, to question 9557, it is put very strongly there.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—Yes. (Quoting), "How long do you think a nurse ought to have been trained in a hospital before she is sent out as a private nurse, as a trained nurse?—I think she ought not to be sent to nurse the sick until she has gained a certificate, which is the guarantee of the hospital which trained her that she is an efficient nurse. In most of the large hospitals I think that three years is the time which is required, and I think that is quite the minimum time for which she should be trained before she is sent out."

I point out that there is a body of persons who have come to the distinct conclusion that speaking of trained nurses for private nursing, assuming there is aptitude and talent, assuming a disposition and moral character, that a year is ample to learn the technical work, and that the longer training of the hospital is not in some cases an improvement to the nurse.

Lord HANNEN.—Why should not the public have a guide to the nurses who have served three years?

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—Certainly, my lord, there would be no objection if that was all they said. But that is not all that is put forward. This is put forward as being the Register of Trained Nurses for 1892.

Lord HANNEN.—Assuming that to be a good objection, that would be remedied by stating that it was the register of the trained nurses, of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Sir RICHARD WEBSTER.—That, I submit, is not quite the position in which the opponents are to be placed. I came here to contest the application for a Charter for a certain definite object, and that object was not the simply preparing a list of their members, and that again does not meet the main objection that the purpose for which incorporation is sought is to keep a Register. The preparing a list of members is only a matter for bye-laws; it is not a matter for a Charter, nor is it the object of incorporation. The object of incorporation would be to improve the members, to promote a certain study, and if the object be to keep a Chartered Register, then it must be that your Lordships think it is a desirable thing that the functions, so to speak, of the Chartered Corporation should be to keep a chartered register. If your lordships will kindly look at page 757 of the blue book, question 9649, you will find this question and answer.

"And you further pointed out that if the hospital recognised the utility of such an Association, they would require their Nurses probably to register themselves? The moral force of the thing would compel all the trained Nurses to become registered in the course of a few years; still, that would not prevent the amateur nurses still being in existence any more than the quack doctors."

I am not suggesting, my lords, that something cannot be put into the Charter to guard against the things which the opponents object to, but if we had not brought to your lordships notice the object and aims of the persons who promote this, and their veiled desire that the register should become official, your lordships would have had reason to complain if you had granted the Charter under a misapprehension. If your lordships think the dangers which we have indicated do not exist, and if there is no room for inquiry, that no parliamentary sanction is necessary for such purposes as are indicated in this Charter, our duty will be performed, and

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