

which are printed in the papers before you, by the medical men and the nurses, and which have been feebly and inadequately expressed by their counsel at the bar, are worthy of consideration, I pray that you will advise Her Majesty that this Charter of Incorporation according to the draft, with such alterations as I have suggested, and such other alterations as your lordships may think advisable, may be granted, notwithstanding the opposition. I will only say in conclusion, that I do not conceive that as to the granting of a Charter, there is really any difference of opinion between my learned friend and myself, and it is only as to whether that Charter should pursue the particular course which we propose, so far as the Register is concerned, that there is any difference. And as to that, I beg to point out that my friend's clients have not themselves the courage of their opinions, because if they had the courage of their opinions, what they would say is this, not only strike that purpose out, but put into the Charter a prohibition against that purpose. Supposing your lordships strike out that purpose, and made us go on saying Royal British Nurses Association, Incorporated by Royal Charter; Register of Trained nurses kept by the Association. That would not meet my friend's argument. The only way for them out of the difficulty is to ask, not only that the purpose may be refused, but that there may be a prohibition in this charter against keeping or publishing any register, so as to make it unlawful.

Lord HANNEN.—What do you say to Sir Richard's objection that your register purports to be of trained nurses generally?

Sir H. DAVEY.—I should have thought, my lord, reading it fairly, that that was not the meaning of it. It is a register of trained nurses, certainly; but it was never intended to have any coercive or compulsory effect. It is "The Royal British Nurses' Association. The Register of Trained Nurses for 1892." That, I understand is—the register of trained nurses kept by the Royal British Association for 1892.

Lord HOBHOUSE.—Certainly your charter provides for keeping a "register of trained nurses" indefinitely.

Sir H. DAVEY.—Certainly it is a register. It is "the maintenance of a list or register of nurses, showing as to each nurse registered, the name, address, date of registration, name of the hospital or other places where she has been trained, and the length of training she has received." That is one of the purposes for which we desire incorporation. We do desire to keep, maintain, and publish a list or register of Nurses; but, my lords, there is nothing coercive about that. No human being need go on unless she likes. It is not a condition precedent to employment by anybody that the name should be found there; and all we desire to do is, that one of our purposes shall be to keep a register of this description which is open to inspection, and upon which any Nurse who thinks fit, and who complies with the requirements, can have her name enrolled.

Lord HANNEN.—Do you object to its being made clear that you only purport to keep a register of nurses who have applied to have their names put on the register, and who are qualified?

Sir HORACE DAVEY.—My lord, I should certainly think not. I should think, if that is not here already, it should be, because it is the fact.

Lord HANNEN.—Yes, it is.

Sir H. DAVEY.—I cannot conceive that there can be any objection to that, my lord. I quite admit that a certain number of persons, and I say so respectfully, have talked—I was going to say a good deal of nonsense, but I substi-

tute, exaggeration—about the effect of the register. But if anything could more clearly bring out the truth, there can be no objection to it, and I think it would be right.

Lord HANNEN.—One other point I should like to ask. You have said what you were going to say about the penalties?

Sir H. DAVEY.—Yes.

Lord HANNEN.—Then what has been the usual form of approval by this Council of the bye-laws?

Sir H. DAVEY.—There is a regular form of approval.

Lord HANNEN.—But is there no power in honorary members?

Sir R. WEBSTER.—Oh yes, there is a certain power in respect to them.

Sir H. DAVEY.—That is only right. We think there should be medical men—

The Marquis of RIPON.—Why do you attach importance to that?

Sir H. DAVEY.—I do not attach importance to it; my learned friend does.

Lord HANNEN.—I should have thought that the mere description of certain members, as honorary members, would have excluded them from rights possessed by other members.

Sir R. WEBSTER.—I understand that the scheme is that the lay members should not have rights, that it should only be medical men and nurses. It is not a question of form, but of substance.

Lord HANNEN.—Quite so. You would not object to remove the words honorary members, so that there should be a power to elect specially qualified persons as members of the General Council?

Sir R. WEBSTER.—Or provide that they should be there.

Sir H. DAVEY.—My lords, this is intended to be a professional body. Of course, if it is right that there should be a certain number of lay members—though I can't see why—

Lord HANNEN.—Why should there not be power, so that a person like—say Miss Nightingale—might be put on?

Sir H. DAVEY.—Well, I do not see why—

Sir R. WEBSTER.—I mention no names, but there may be many such.

Sir H. DAVEY.—We wish it to be representative, but we wish it also to be a professional body. We do not wish it to be merely a popular body. My learned friend seems to think we ought to make it a popular body; but we take it to be as much a professional body as the Society of Civil Engineers. We provide that "The General Council shall be the governing body of the corporation, and shall consist of such numbers of members ex officio, and elected members possessing respectively such qualifications as may be prescribed by the bye-laws for the time being in force." We do not wish it governed by the laity; but I see nothing there to exclude a lay member from the general council.

The Marquis of RIPON.—The proposal simply is, as I understand, to take the word "honorary" out of the qualification of members of the corporation?

Sir H. DAVEY.—Yes. Well, I do not object to that; it seems to me a very small point.

The Marquis of RIPON.—Then you are willing to have the word "Elected" put in.

Sir H. DAVEY.—Yes. I think it a small point, only I wish it understood that the view of the petitioners is that this should be a professional body, not one to be governed by outside people. They may be very useful for the purpose of training nurses; but we are a purely professional body, and the body is intended to be a body of nurses and of those medical men who are asso-

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