

public, the medical profession, and Trained Nurses, by establishing a system of Registration for Trained Nurses similar to that which has been established by Parliament for medical men; (2) to found and maintain schemes for the benefit of Nurses in the practice of their profession, and in times of adversity, sickness and old age; and (3) other objects beneficial to the profession of Trained Nurses and those who require their services.

II. The Association, soon after its formation, applied to the General Medical Council of Education and Registration of the United Kingdom to undertake the Registration of Nurses. The Council passed a unanimous resolution approving of such a system, but declared itself unable to carry it out. The Association next applied to the authorities of all the large hospitals in the United Kingdom to form a body for the purpose of carrying out the Registration of Trained Nurses, but the application was not acceded to.

III. The Association then appointed a Registration Board, and initiated a system of voluntary registration of Trained Nurses. The system, which has now been in operation for more than two years, is as follows: A Nurse who desires registration of her name, address, and qualifications must make application on a prescribed form and in accordance with prescribed rules. Careful inquiries are then made by the Registration Board as to the truth of the applicant's statements and as to her moral character. If these are satisfactory, the Nurse's name, address, the place where, and time when, she was trained as a Nurse, are entered in the Register. The Registration Board have power to remove from the Register the name of any Nurse who proves herself to be unworthy of trust. The names of the Registration Board of the Association will be found set out in the Appendix (p. 13). The Rules for Registration, and a specimen entry from the Register will be found in the Appendix at p. 15, and the form of application for Registration will be found in the Appendix (p. 16).

IV. Besides carrying out the system of voluntary registration of trained Nurses, the Association carries on important schemes for the benefit of its members, and in the year 1890 it learnt that large sums of money might be entrusted to it to be administered for the benefit of Trained Nurses, if the Association could be incorporated. In the year 1891, therefore, the Association applied to the Board of Trade for a licence to permit the registration of the Association under the 23rd section of the Companies' Act, 1867. The Board of Trade declined to grant the licence, which had been applied for, on the ground that the Board of Trade had received objections from influential persons, but the Association were not informed of the nature of the objections, nor were they given any opportunity to reply to them. Afterwards, the full text of the statements of the objectors which had been made to the Board of Trade was supplied to the Association. These statements were, the Association contend, and as they were, and are, prepared to prove, inaccurate and misleading. The Board of Trade stated that they were unable to investigate the matters in dispute, but added that "should the Association decide to make an application to the Privy Council for an inquiry with a view to obtaining the powers they desire, such application would receive the cordial support of the President of the Board of Trade."

V. The Association accordingly caused the Draft of a Charter to be prepared, and the petition hereinbefore mentioned was presented, that a Charter of Incorporation might be granted to the Association. The purposes of the proposed Corporation, as stated in the Draft Charter, are:—

- (1) The maintenance of a list or register of Nurses,

showing as to each Nurse registered her name and address, and the name of the hospitals or other places at which she has been trained, and the length of training which she has received.

- (2) The founding and maintenance of schemes for the benefit of Nurses in the practice of their profession, and in times of adversity, sickness, and old age.
- (3) The promotion of conferences, public meetings, and lectures, in connection with the general work of the Corporation.
- (4) The doing anything incidental or conducive to carrying into effect the foregoing purposes.

The names of the members of the Association who are named in the Incorporation Clause of the Draft Charter will be found set out in the Appendix (p. 10). The Draft Charter has been deposited at the Privy Council Office, and the Petitioner will, at the hearing of this Petition, ask leave to refer to prints of the Draft Charter for the terms and effect thereof. The Association do not seek by the said Charter any special rights, powers, or privileges.

VI. The Royal British Nurses' Association at present consists of 2,821 members, including many well-known members of the medical profession, and matrons of British hospitals. The Association has spent on the work of voluntary registration, which has been in actual operation for two years, a sum of not less than £800. Last year, it received the gracious recognition by Her Majesty of its work, in the grant of the prefix "Royal" to its name.

The Association have prepared a document entitled "Royal British Nurses' Association," which has been lodged at the Privy Council office in support of their petition, to a print of which the Petitioner will, for convenience ask leave to refer, at the hearing of this Petition. On p. 11 of the said document will be found the names of 100 representative medical members of the Association, and on p. 15 of the said document will be found a list of some representative members of the Association and Registered Nurses.

VII. A petition in favour of the Incorporation has been presented to Her Majesty in Council signed by more than 6,700 persons, including 1,100 medical men living in every part of the United Kingdom, more than 1,000 nurses, 250 benefited clergymen, and a considerable number of persons eminent in the professions of the army, navy, law, and science. These signatures were obtained in a month by a comparatively small number of busy nurses and medical men. A copy of the said petition will be found at p. 12 of the Appendix.

In the above-mentioned document will be found, at pp. 26-47 inclusive, the names of matrons of hospitals all over the world who support the Petition: at p. 50 will be found the names of members of the medical profession who have signed the said petition, and at p. 72 will be found the names of a few representative members of the general public who have signed the said Petition.

VIII. The Petitions which have been presented against the Incorporation of the Association are, except in a few instances, apparently not presented by, or on behalf of, incorporated institutions or associations, but by individuals only, and the Petitioner and the Members of the Association do not know how far the signatures to the petitions represent, or are authorised to represent, any of the Hospitals in their corporate capacity, or are submitting their own private views.

IX. In the REPLY of the Petitioner to the said petitions in opposition, there will be found set out, in parallel columns, the statements and grounds of objection relied

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