

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 2116. Vol. 92.

NOVEMBER, 1944.

Price Sevenpence

## EDITORIAL.

### LET US PRAISE GREAT MEN AND WOMEN.

We are often surprised to hear the younger generation of Nurses remark:—

“Oh! Doctors are not really the trained Nurses’ friends—they are quite satisfied with the semi-trained, and there lies the danger of the “Registered Assistant Nurse”; or—

“The Superintendent of our ‘Co-op’ sends out semi-trained Nurses—the doctors will have them” or—

“If I refused to work in private with semi-trained women I should lose many cases; all the same, in doing so I feel a blackleg, and am retiring from private Nursing.”

There is truth in these complaints, and we wonder how far the Nursing Profession is to blame for its loss of status. More than they realise. How is it that Registered Nurses attach themselves to private Nursing Homes and so-called “Co-ops,” run by lay men and women? The Act which was presumably promoted to prevent such abuses has apparently done no such thing, and, as far as we can ascertain, the provisions *re* “Nursing Co-ops” provided for in the Nurses’ Act, 1943, are a dead letter.

Looking back over a long Nursing career—we have a sense of warm gratitude to the Medical Staffs of all the Hospitals in which we worked—we received nothing but encouragement and appreciation, and when it came to the monumental struggle between Liberty and Control during three decades, we remember the great generous-minded men who ranged themselves with the group of conscientious Trained Nurses who claimed safety for the sick, with a sense of gratitude which nothing on earth can minimise, and we have no doubt that the names of Bedford Fenwick (in Great Britain), and John Tremble (in South Africa), will in time receive the public recognition they deserve.

The former, jointly with ourselves, organised the British Nurses’ Association, in 1887, and practically won its Royal Charter, in 1892—the organisation which promoted the State Registration of Nurses and helped to win the Nurses’ Registration Act of 1919.

We were always taught that ingratitude was a vulgar vice, so whilst the names of pioneers are green, let us remember them, and place them on record, so that future generations of Registered Nurses may be privileged to know to whom they owe thanks for legal status.

## THE ROYAL CHARTER.

### ROYAL BRITISH NURSES’ ASSOCIATION.

When in the year 1892 Her Majesty Queen Victoria granted the first Royal Charter to British women, she did so in the following terms when she granted the Royal Charter to the Royal British Nurses’ Association, associated with the name of her daughter “Helena,” followed by the Medical and Nursing Signatories to the Charter:—

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING.

“OUR TRUSTY AND WELL-BELOVED.”

Our said most dearly beloved daughter, Helena, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland, Our trusty and well beloved

- Sir James Paget, Baronet.
- Sir Spencer Wells, Baronet.
- Sir William Savory, Baronet.
- Sir Richard Quain, Baronet.
- Sir Joseph Fayrer, Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.
- Sir Henry Thompson, Knight Bachelor.
- Sir James Crichton Browne, Knight Bachelor.
- Sir Dyce Duckworth, Knight Bachelor.
- Sir Edward Sieveking, Knight Bachelor.
- Sir Alfred Garrod, Knight Bachelor.
- Sir George Humphry, Knight Bachelor.
- Robert Brudenell Carter, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- John Williams, Doctor of Medicine.
- William Bezley Thorne, Doctor of Medicine.
- Bedford Fenwick, Doctor of Medicine.
- Isla Stewart (Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital).
- G. M. Thorold (Lady Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital).
- Ethel Gordon Fenwick (late Matron and Superintendent of Nursing of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital).
- Cassandra Beachcroft (Lady Superintendent of the Lincoln County Hospital).
- Margaret Breay (Acting Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital).
- Mary N. Cureton (Lady Superintendent of Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge).
- Christina Forrest (Lady Superintendent of the York County Hospital).
- Louisa Hogg (Head Sister of the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar).

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