

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—You have worked so hard to draw Nurses together, and so help them to help each other, that I should like to explain to you why Canadian Nurses have determined not to form a Branch of the British Nurses' Association as you suggested, and as many at first wished to do. It seemed natural to us that those who venerate our Queen and cherish the connection between Canada and Great Britain, should join their English sisters under the lead of Princess Christian. We agreed with you in theory, and admired your vision of the Nursing sisterhood taking a step towards the confederation of the many peoples and scattered nations comprised in the British Empire. Why have we then, in practice, decided to break away from you and to join hands instead with our sisters in the United States? Because we have carefully watched how the British Nurses' Association was being managed. We saw it succeed and gain its Charter through the efforts of Nurses.

Now we see from the NURSING RECORD how it has fallen into the control of half-a-dozen medical men. We have seen how they have involved the Association in extravagance and debt; how they have forced the Matrons off the Council, and packed the Council with Nurses from two Hospitals with which the officials, it seems, are connected. We have indignantly seen how they threatened to ruin a Nurse because she complained of their mismanagement, how she appealed to your Law Courts for protection and gained it; how her assailants pleaded that they had never meant anything by their threat to ruin her; how the Judge made them pay her costs; and how, in paltry revenge, they called a Special Meeting of the Association to condemn a Nurse who had been justified by an English Judge; how the Meeting was evidently intimidated into condemning her, because the Resolution was proposed by the President of the Physicians of London, who showed he knew nothing about it, and who, it was shown in the *British Medical Journal*, had not the least right to have interfered in the matter.

We have seen with amazement how the Council of the Association has been prevented from discussing its affairs, and how criticism of the mismanagement was prevented at the Annual Meeting by the Chairman. This may be English freedom, love of justice, free speech, and fair play. If so, we Canadian

women do not like it, and will have none of it; and we are, therefore, going to join our fellow Nurses in the United States in governing our professional Union. After all you have done for Nursing it is right you should know our reasons, and we think, from your constant protests against the above proceedings, that you will think we are justified.

Respectfully,  
A LOYAL AND SELF-RESPECTING  
CANADIAN.

[This was sent us as a private communication, but it seemed to us so important that we have obtained the consent of our correspondent to publish it, omitting two paragraphs. We refer to this matter above.—ED.]

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### Breay v. Browne.

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SOME weeks ago, we reported in these columns the fact that Miss Margaret Breay had brought an action against Sir James Crichton-Browne alleging that he had maliciously and wrongfully used his authority, as Chairman of the annual meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to prevent her from bringing forward the motion of which she had given formal notice, and which appeared upon the Agenda of the meeting. It was as follows:—"That this meeting of the Corporation expresses its strong disapproval of the methods of management pursued by the present Executive Committee, especially concerning the manner in which the pledges of the Association have been broken; in which the expenditure of the Association has been allowed so greatly to exceed its reliable income; in which the provisions of the Charter and Bye-laws have been violated; and in which a member of the Association has been compelled to appeal to the Court of Chancery for protection against the Executive Committee."

The reason given by Sir James Crichton-Browne was that the letter containing this Resolution had not been registered, as required by the Bye-laws. Miss Breay asserted that it *had* been registered, and handed to the Chairman the post-office certificate of its registration. After examining this carefully, he adhered to his ruling that she could not bring forward her Resolution.

The action was tried, last Monday, in the

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