

introduced in the interests of the public, and as midwives are not in a position to pay large fees for purposes of registration, a grant should be made by the Treasury to meet the expenses of the Midwives' Board, and the additional charges imposed on the General Medical Council"—a most significant expression of opinion.

Dr. Thorne Thorne, Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, referring to the discussion of the previous day on the Midwives Institute, said "he felt rather troubled when he found the Council had erased from the Midwives Board every single woman, and had put on only men to control these women. He said the Midwives' Institute had a Royal Princess at their head, and a committee, and was entitled to representation. He proposed that three representatives of the Institute should be on the proposed Board. He was not giving women a high position. Even with the representation he proposed they would be in a minority of three in a Board of thirteen."

Mr. Brudenell Carter "considered Dr. Thorne's proposal to give the Institute representation by female practitioners was calculated to add a new terror to the male members of the Midwives' Board. He had had some experience of a mixed Board lately, and he sincerely trusted that experience would not be enlarged."

As a matter of fact, as we read the Bill, the Midwives' Institute will only be able to appoint medical men upon the Midwives' Registration Board. It would almost seem from the discussion, however, and from Mr. Carter's "terror," that the General Medical Council, after sitting in solemn conclave for three days on the Bill, had failed to understand this crucial fact and provision. However, the Council reversed its decision of the previous day, and decided that the Midwives' Institute ought to be afforded some representation. The General Medical Council practically approved of the Bill in its present form, a fact which will not be received with universal satisfaction or approval by those who have carefully considered the subject. We understand that there is the strongest feeling expressed amongst medical practitioners throughout the country, at the attitude which has thus been assumed by the General Medical Council, and it is at any rate most significant that two of the direct representatives of the profession—Sir Walter Foster and Mr. Wheelhouse—strongly spoke and voted against the approval of the General Medical Council being given to the chief provisions of the Bill.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."



DEAR MADAM,—As one of the earliest members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and one who has taken a very deep interest in its progress and welfare, I cannot refrain from writing a short letter, for publication in next week's RECORD, feeling sure that I am expressing the feeling of the older members of the Association in protesting against any alteration in the constitution of our Council. When the Association was founded, in 1887, before any of our present honorary officers were members, the relation of the Association towards the large Nurse Training Schools was considered from every point of view—the advice of several treasurers and secretaries being asked concerning its formation—and it was after hearing their views that the contract was made with these Schools, that their Matrons should have seats *ex-officio* upon its Council and Executive Committee, subject to their consent to act. It still appears to me desirable that these relations between the Association and the large Training Schools and the Government Services, should be maintained, and I feel deeply that any attempt to alter this arrangement will create a strong feeling of opposition upon the part of the older members who joined the Association—many of them as life members—upon the distinct understanding that the original constitution would be adhered to, especially as this *breach of faith* would remove from our governing body some of the founders of the Association, who during the past eight years have earned the confidence and gratitude of all those members of the Association who have taken a true interest in its work; and their removal from the Council would inevitably cause irreparable harm, and arouse much bitter feeling in our ranks. It is my opinion that the Bye-laws should be made to conform with each other at the earliest possible date.

I am, yours truly,

C. M. BEACHCROFT,

Member of the General Council R.B.N.A.
Matron County Hospital, Lincoln.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I venture to write to you as an early member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and one who, approving of its present constitution and of its great aims in the improvement in the status of Nurses, has recommended several Nurses to join. I regret to observe that it is actually proposed to make a very serious change in our constitution, by removing the *ex-officio* Matrons from the Council.

I desire to publicly express my opinion, as the Matron of a large provincial Nurse training school, that if this proposal is adopted by our Corporation, few provincial Matrons will care to retain connection with an Association, which would thus be deprived of the advice and personal interest of the women whom from long experience they have learned to respect and honour, and whom they are proud to acknowledge as their professional leaders.

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