

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The following sentence, taken from a leader in the *Lancet* of June 1st, referring to the affairs of the Royal College of Surgeons, may, it appears to me, be fitly quoted at the present time, regarding many members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in view of the unfortunate state of things now existing:—

"These circumstances are bound to exercise a healthy and stimulating effect upon the Fellows, and many of them, formerly apathetic or indifferent, will doubtless begin to evince an intelligent interest in the affairs of the great professional institution *whose destinies it is in their power to direct and control*" (the italics are mine). Especially perhaps, is the parallel apt, with reference to Nurse members of the Corporation, who after all constitute the main body. In their hands the concerns of the Association must eventually, though indirectly, rest.

The individual opinion of each separate member must necessarily have weight in turning the scale one way or the other, when the balance is hovering between the merits of disputed points.

Such being the case, surely it is only a matter of common justice that their delegates should be chosen ones, able accurately to gauge their interests, and to give voice to their views regarding matters under discussion. It can hardly be disputed, therefore, that the removal of the *ex-officio* Matrons, believed by many members to be their permanent representatives, is manifestly unjust, however strictly within the letter of the law such a proceeding may be.

It would seem at the present juncture that the only fair thing to be done is "to go to the country," in other words, to give each individual constituent the opportunity of stating her opinion regarding the ejection of the *ex-officio* matrons by a ballot at the Annual Meeting, enabling absentees to record their votes by means of special voting papers. Many like myself would, I feel sure, gladly make use of such an occasion to prove that they are not unmindful of benefits received, by protesting against the removal of the names of those who actually brought the Association into existence.

Faithfully yours,  
 MARIAN C. PINCOFFS,  
 Registered Nurse.

Dunster.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I cannot express how grieved I am at the want of unity in our Association. That changes are needed in the Executive is self-evident, but whatever confidence is left in the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be removed if the chief matrons and leaders of our profession are excluded from the management of the affairs of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It pains one to think that the founders who have worked so hard, and have paid so liberally for the Association should be set aside for those about whom we know very little and to whom we owe nothing,

Dear Madam, Believe me,  
 Yours faithfully,  
 A. E. BRIGGS,  
 M.R.B.N.A.

Sisters' Quarters, Shorncliffe.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I cannot thank you sufficiently for calling the attention of our members to the proposed change in our Council, namely, the removal of the names of those ladies who have been among its best friends and workers. Your timely notice may prevent others doing a like foolish thing to myself. I have been a member since February, 1889, and till this year have always read down my voting paper well before signing, so though I know very few of our members personally, I have grown familiar with their names and the work they have done for us, and have perfect confidence in them. I can only excuse myself for doing what I did, that at the time I had a special strain on my time and was far from well, and as I was likely to leave home, sent the paper on at once signed and unaltered. I do think *some special notice* ought to have been given to the members of the very grave change proposed, when the voting papers were sent to us, but nothing of the kind was done and it was only when I received my RECORD the day after I had despatched the paper I found what a foolish thing I had done. I wrote to our Secretary asking if it was possible to return my paper for correction, or to destroy it and another issued to me. Her answer was she would bring my letter before the Committee at its next meeting, which she has done, and the enclosed is their answer. (The reply is regret at inability to comply with the request.) I am more than sorry for any act of mine that looks like an insult to those ladies who for years have done so much to improve the position of Nurses; especially those of us who have so few opportunities for doing more than our daily duty faithfully in the profession we have chosen for a living, but we private Nurses are not unmindful or ungrateful to those who have given freely both time and talent to make us and our Association what it is. I do not know if there is any other way I could act to undo what I am so sorry for doing, for a vote is a vote whatever the position of the member. I can only hope your timely notice will have prevented other members making the same mistake I did.

Yours faithfully,  
 ANNIE E. PREEDY,  
 M.R.B.N.A.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I and many others find the position of affairs in the Royal British Nurses' Association most mysterious, and humbly ask for more light. Did the Association agree, and bind itself in its Bye-laws, to give its founders and chief workers permanent seats on its governing body? Was this privilege accepted by them? Has it been continued for seven years, and has its principle been accepted by Her Majesty's Privy Council? Have these ladies rendered invaluable services to the Corporation, and to the Nursing profession? and have their efforts proved successful in the face of great opposition and difficulties? If, as I am told, all these questions must be answered in the affirmative, the only further question to be asked is—How came it to be proposed that these ladies should be suddenly removed from the positions they have occupied with such conspicuous success, and such advantage to their Association?

I am, Madam,  
 AN INQUIRER.

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