

are prepared to comply with this request." The Executive Committee now assert that in their opinion this was not a "threatening" letter. We leave our readers and the public to determine the precise adjective which would better describe the quotation we have given, coming as it did from so eminent a legal firm. Miss Barlow placed the letter in the hands of her Solicitors, and there the matter rested. Then the Executive Committee held a meeting to consider the letter in the NURSING RECORD, and passed a Resolution calling upon Miss Barlow to give good reason for her letter, and an apology for writing it—a prejudgment of her case upon which sufficient comment is given elsewhere. Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. James Calvert and Mrs. Dacre Craven thereupon, instead of conveying to the Nurse the terms of the Resolution passed by the Committee—as it was clearly the intention of the Committee that they should do—wrote officially to her, expressing a threat from the Executive Committee which that body had not authorised—a disregard of the precise instructions given to them by the Committee, which, in our judgment, must receive a full explanation, and for which the persons named should be alone answerable. On receipt of this threat—which in effect meant that the Executive Committee had decided to erase her name from the Register, because she had publicly complained of the management of the Association—the Nurse had no option but to place the matter in the hands of her Solicitors. They demanded that the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Bye-laws, should fix a date for the Special Meeting required by the Bye-laws for the consideration of the removal of the Nurse's name from the Register of Trained Nurses. The Committee, in reply, stated that the Special Meeting in question should be summoned for July 26th. Miss Barlow's Solicitors gave notice that she would appear by Counsel at the hearing of the case, and the Committee thereupon clearly became doubtful as to the wisdom of the course they were pursuing, for they replied, that while the Bye-law gave the Nurse the right to appear "by proxy," it did not mention "Counsel"—a strange distinction, seeing that a "proxy" may of course belong to any profession, or be of either sex. After further correspondence, the notices convening the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee were issued, and it was then found that instead of summoning the meeting as

provided for by the Bye-laws "to consider the erasure of the Nurse's name from the Register," the meeting was summoned merely to consider the letter in the NURSING RECORD—a course which, according to the statements made by Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. James Calvert and Mrs. Dacre Craven, had been taken and concluded a month previously.

The position then was this—the Nurse and her Solicitors were aware of the other irregularities which had previously been committed, and of the questionable proceedings by which the pledged word of the Association had been broken to the founders of the Association; she had been threatened officially, in the name of the Executive Committee, with professional ruin, because she had publicly complained of being deprived of a legal right and privilege; and as soon as she defended herself, quibbles of the most disingenuous kind were raised. Now, the Nurse was faced by the fact that if the Executive Committee intended to consider the erasure of her name on July 26th—as they had definitely declared their intention of doing—they had definitely broken the Bye-law, BY NOT CONVENING THE MEETING FOR THAT SPECIAL PURPOSE. Her Solicitors declined to trust the Executive Committee, and consequently demanded to know "Yes" or "No" whether the Committee proposed at its meeting on July 26th to carry out the threat conveyed in the official letter, and which had subsequently never been contradicted. To this enquiry, the Committee made no answer, but Mr. Muir Mackenzie, the standing Counsel of the Association, wrote a letter, which the Judge described as "an answer which, after having read it more than once this morning, I cannot discover is a definite answer to the question." The solicitors then held that it was necessary to apply to the Courts of Justice for Miss Barlow's protection. They did so; an Injunction was granted, restraining the Committee, and this was continued practically over the Long Vacation, during the whole of which time the Committee never attempted to close the matter. When the motion came on for judgment it was found that Dr. Bezly Thorne and Dr. James Calvert had resigned their offices as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and disclaimed all responsibility for the proceedings arising from their letter to Miss Barlow. Such conduct is significant beyond any necessity for comment. Then the Executive Committee produced, for the first time,

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