

In other words, this was a threat, purporting to proceed from the Executive Committee, to employ the power of erasing names from the Register of Nurses—which has been conferred upon them by Her Majesty's Privy Council, and to be exercised only for the public benefit—to punish me for merely complaining of mismanagement on the part of their officials. It is needless to point out that such erasure would have practically meant my professional ruin. Moreover, the Committee had apparently arrived at the decision to proceed against me, for the purpose of inflicting this extreme penalty, upon the solitary statements of the Secretary, who had, through her lawyers, already stated that she felt herself aggrieved by me. In face of the clear threat conveyed, and being in entire ignorance of the terms of the Resolution really passed by the Committee, I was most reluctantly, but in simple self defence, compelled to place the matter in the hands of my Solicitors.

(7) They wrote to the Executive Committee, asking that a day should be appointed for the Special Meeting required by the Bye-laws, and stating that I would appear thereat by Counsel. The Committee fixed July 26th for the special meeting, but stated that the Bye-law gave me the right to appear "by proxy," but did not mention "Counsel." A lengthy correspondence ensued, until finally, the Secretary—while still leading me and my Solicitors to understand that the special meeting on July 26th was to be held under the Bye-law set forth in the above letter (No. 2), *i.e.*, to consider the erasure of my name from the Register of Nurses—convened the said meeting merely to inquire into the statements made in my letter to the NURSING RECORD—and giving no notice of the proposal to erase my name as required by the said Bye-law. My Solicitors, therefore, wrote to the Secretary, inquiring whether or not the Committee intended to carry out the threat conveyed in the above letter (No. 2) of June 28th, seeing that the special meeting had not been "specially summoned" for that purpose, and they stated that in the event of the reply of the Committee not being definite, it would be necessary to appeal to the Courts for my protection.

(8) *The Committee vouchsafed no reply*, and an application was therefore made to a Judge in Chancery, and an interim injunction was granted restraining Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mrs. Dacre

Craven, and Dr. James Calvert, over Friday, August 2nd, and until further order, from erasing my name from the Register of Trained Nurses, or from passing any Resolution to erase my name from the said Register. Even after this the Executive Committee did not inform me of their original Resolution, nor that they had no intention of carrying out the threat expressed by their Hon. Officers. On the contrary, they permitted the legal proceedings to extend over nearly four months longer, and thus involved me in very heavy law costs.

(9) On October 18th, 1895, Dr. Bezly Thorne and Dr. James Calvert resigned their offices, and then filed affidavits in which they objected to represent the members of the Executive Committee in the action—a proceeding difficult to understand, inasmuch as it was the action of these gentlemen, in conjunction with Mrs. Dacre Craven, which led to legal proceedings being necessary at all.

(10) Although my action was instituted in July last, it was not until the end of October that, for the first time, I became informed, by the affidavit filed by the Secretary, of the real terms of the Resolution passed by the Executive Committee at their Meeting on June 25th.

(11) On November 13th, the motion came on for hearing before Mr. Justice Stirling, when it was stated on behalf of the Executive Committee that they never had any intention of erasing my name from the Register of Nurses. The Judge, however, held that I was justified in appealing to the Courts, and therefore ordered the Corporation to pay my costs.

(12) It is impossible that I should let the matter rest here. I have been threatened with professional ruin, as though I had committed some grave offence. Through the action of your officials, I have been caused intense mental anxiety and trouble for five months, and the costs which I have incurred in my defence will, of course, amount to a considerable sum beyond the taxed costs, which the Corporation will be required to pay. I desire, therefore, to ask what reparation the Executive Committee propose to make to me for the manner in which I have been treated by their officials, in their name, and for the large pecuniary expenses which I have been compelled to incur in my defence.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. BARLOW.

On the evening of January 6th, I received a reply to the above letter, dated January 3rd, 1896. That reply deals at much length with points which are not material and significantly omits to answer the salient facts which I had stated—that a number of other members of the Association were, by the neglect of the officials, deprived of their voting papers, and, therefore, of their legal right to vote for the election of the governing body of the Corporation; that the Committee

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