

with much consideration and courtesy also from their husbands, who will, after a hard day's work and a broken night's rest, volunteer to see her safely home in the small hours of the morning. There is scope, also, if she desire it, for much usefulness in the way of mothers' meetings and rescue work; and so, as the years go by, and she looks back upon the time when she decided, with many misgivings, to adopt Midwifery or monthly Nursing as her vocation, she will be more than content with the lot she has chosen, more especially if she has grasped with Evangeline the meaning of the trials and hardships of life, and is striving after the ideal so wonderfully depicted by Longfellow in his lines:—

"Patience, and abnegation of self, and devotion to others,
This was the lesson a life of trial and sorrow had taught her.
So was her love diffused, but like to some odorous spices,
Suffered no waste nor loss, though filling the air with aroma.
Other hope she had none, nor wish in life, but to follow
Meekly with reverend steps, the sacred feet of her Saviour."

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

NEW REGULATION FOR REGISTRATION.



IN the confusion at the last General Council Meeting last month it may have escaped the notice of those present, that in passing the Report from the Executive Committee the Regulation for Registration was altered. A Nurse must now pass the whole three years of her training in Hospitals containing forty beds and upwards, one year of which time must be spent in a general Hospital. This Regulation is not to be retrospective, so that no injustice will be done to those Nurses who have commenced their training before October, 1896, and have complied with the present regulations for Registration. We hope wide publicity will be given to this change in the conditions of Registration, so that Nurses hoping to register in the future, may not be disqualified by entering, for any part of their training, Hospitals containing less than forty beds.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—That a very lamentable, if not disgraceful condition, at present obtains at the Royal British Nurses' Association is made certain by the recent meeting held in connection with the case of Nurse Barlow. Having many months ago resigned my position on the Executive Committee of the Corporation for reasons which were quite definite, and being, therefore, unaware of the state of affairs, I was astounded at the rancour exhibited in the discussion. That members on both sides should vie with one another in pursuing a course absolutely inimical to the objects of the Corporation seems incredible. I have, therefore, tried, so far as I have been able, to ascertain the causes of the present folly. In the first place, the faults of administration have been very grave ones. On the one side, a spirit of dictation, and on the other a spirit of faction. That faction is usually the outcome of a policy of dictation is well known. In the second place, personal animosities and personal questions have come to the front, and, besides these, considerations which ought not to be tolerated.

In the case of Nurse Barlow, it appears that the first mistake made was in the letter sent to Miss Barlow by the Nurse Hon. Secretary, the Medical Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Treasurer, dated June 28th, 1895. It appears that these officers wrote a letter, for which they had no authority from the Executive Committee, or, at all events, the letters exceeded the terms of the resolution actually passed.

Miss Barlow's original letters to the NURSING RECORD complained of the mismanagement of the affairs of the Association. Now, as one of the reasons which led me to sever my connection with the Executive Committee was that I could not approve of the methods adopted for the management of the Corporation, I cannot myself see any very sound reason for the necessity of the resolution proposed by Sir J. Crichton Browne. The letter written by the hon. officers was to my mind the blunder which gave to faction its opportunity. The second and final mistake committed was the calling of a meeting to condemn Miss Barlow's action, no consideration being taken of the faults in management which had led to faction, or of the blunder committed by the Hon. Officers.

The Corporation was instituted with the obvious intention of benefiting Nurses and forwarding the best interests of their life work. It has apparently become the bear garden of a certain section of the medical profession, and the objects of the Institution have been lost sight of.

The position of the medical profession in its Councils appears to be quite simple; it should be that of intelligent interest in its well-being. The interference of such a body as the College of Physicians (it was represented on the platform at the recent meeting by its President, its Senior Censor, its Treasurer, and other notabilities) not only shows bad policy, but ignorance as to the proper position of the profession in the matter. The affairs of the Association ought clearly to be managed by Nurses for Nurses; the medical profession ought to take the position of *amicus curiæ*, and especially in those matters where the interests of the two professions come into contact. To suppose that it is either just or reasonable that doctors should come forward and dictate to Nurses in matters of their own immediate concerns appears an absurdity. That they should support an Executive in

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