

mismanagement is wrong absolutely. The mainspring of that mismanagement lies in the system of honorary officers, for in the management of such a Corporation most practical persons will, I believe, agree that honorary officers are a mistake. Business can only be satisfactorily conducted by a well-paid, capable Secretary, directly responsible to the managing authority.

The question which lies before the Corporation is that of a *modus vivendi*, and one must be found. I suggest that an informal meeting, representative of all parties, should be arranged to meet at the offices of the Corporation, and that an impartial Chairman should be provided.

In the meantime, it is hoped that there will be no resignations, but that all who take an interest in the Corporation will come forward and help to cleanse the Augean stable.

I have written this with the sincere desire of doing what I can to terminate an intolerable state of affairs.

Your obedient servant,

LOVELL DRAGE, M.D. (Oxon.).

Hatfield, February 10th, 1896.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—No one can regret more than I do the fact that I have felt compelled to withdraw entirely from the Royal British Nurses' Association,—and no one can appreciate better than you the extreme difficulty I have in explaining briefly my reasons for so doing.

The Association was intended to be a Nurses' Association, and had I had my way it would have been a Nurses' Association, pure and simple—it might have been rather less ambitious, it might have walked more slowly—but I believe it would have walked more circumspectly, and its democratic character would never have been altered.

I was averse from the first to the admission of medical men to the Association—and that not from the fact that I did not fully recognise the subordinate position of Nurses, in their work, to the medical profession—but for that very reason. It would have been far healthier and better for the Nurses to have discussed and arranged matters relating simply to themselves and their own concerns amongst themselves; the medical men, as their employers, would always, by their very position, have retained an unofficial power of veto. We should have made a hundred mistakes, but we should have learnt to think and act steadily for ourselves; and we should have been spared a hundred humiliations.

I wish to state that I write "without prejudice"—Nurses have no better friends than doctors. There is no body of men I admire more than medical men, but their very position in work with regard to Nurses makes it impossible for any connection between them in an Association to end but in one way—*i.e.*, the entire ultimate subordination of the Nurses to the medical men, and the drifting of the entire management of the Association virtually into their hands.

That is, practically, what has now happened,—the government of the Association rests in the hands of some doctors, acting as counsellors to a Royal

President vested with considerable active personal authority.

All the friction that has occurred, the hundred and one skirmishes and misunderstandings that have taken place, all the personal differences and the personal irritation they have evoked, have been—to a thoughtful spectator—so many signs of a change of government that has gradually taken place, with a turmoil of conscious and unconscious opposition. It is now a completed fact.

I have no longer any desire to be loyal to an association that is no longer loyal to its own first principle—the principle of self-government. I do not mind saying with Lord Salisbury that I make an idol of personal liberty, and I really see none of it now in the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Into the details of the struggle I am not going to enter—they are far from being creditable, and become occasionally purely contemptible—but I feel it is due to the side I have espoused to say that even when they have been injudicious—and that they may sometimes have been so I do not deny—they have always championed the right principle, and fought with legitimate and honourable weapons, whilst it is difficult to say the same of their opponents.

The Association has done one great work and laid the foundation of another—it has absolutely settled the question as to the necessity for the registration of Nurses, and it has hall-marked the three years' curriculum. It has further taught Nurses, and, I may say, women generally, the possibilities and powers that lie in combination; but the future of those possibilities and those powers lies outside the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I do not intend to abate for one instant my interest in Nursing proper or "Nursing politics," but such little influence as I possess will be given to other combinations.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,
M. MOLLETT.

Royal South Hants Infirmary,
Southampton,

February 10th, 1896.

[While there is much in the above letter with which we are in absolute sympathy, we are compelled to express our dissent from Miss Mollett's views concerning the "admission of medical men to the Association." We advocated that course strongly, and it was entirely in consequence of our action that this step was taken when the Association was founded. We believe that their assistance and advice to the Association have been invaluable. We are firmly convinced that the Association would suffer an immense loss if that assistance and advice were withdrawn. But we and others object to half a dozen medical men assuming autocratic powers, and attempting to stifle the opinions even of the other medical members, while they do actually prevent the Nurses from expressing their own views and wishes in the Nurses' Association. We are glad to learn that leading medical men strongly disapprove of this conduct, and are prepared, if occasion arises, publicly, to censure it.—ED.]

GREAT surprise has been aroused by a report which is current, that Sir John Russell Reynolds, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, was only elected a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association on February 7th. He appeared for the first time at a meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association on January 28th, and there proposed a Resolution

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