

separately. Suffice it to know that the operative treatment for their relief includes (1) abdominal section; (2) puncture; (3) colotomy.

After abdominal section—the cause having been removed—the wound is usually closed by sutures and the usual healing process takes place. After the operation of colotomy—that is the formation of an artificial anus in the flank, there remains, of course, a permanent opening.

What we have specially to remember is, that in all such operations the peritoneum is cut through, and the danger of peritonitis must be guarded against by the most strictly conscientious preparation of all operation appliances beforehand, and lynx-eyed care and cleanliness of everything which approaches the patient until the wound is healed. It is probable that the Nurse will receive minute directions from the medical man concerning the exact manner in which he prefers to have his patient nursed. But it may prove useful to you to lay before you the special treatment adopted by one of our most eminent and successful, rectal and abdominal, surgeons.

(To be continued.)

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



OWING to the resignation of Miss Mollett, she will not deliver her proposed Lecture before the Royal British Nurses' Association as previously advertised this month. It is to be deplored also that the new Local Centre at Southampton, which she had been requested to organise, will not now be founded.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I cannot allow the letters of my colleagues, Miss E. Knight and Miss H. Poole, to pass without publicly stating how entirely I am in sympathy with much that they write; and the fact that the Matrons of such important hospitals as those of Nottingham, Blackburn, Southampton, &c., are either resigning, or expressing their determination to hold aloof from the Association, will speedily prove the impossibility of the present *régime*, if our Association is to continue to describe itself of national importance. When we come to analyse the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association—after the late withdrawals—what do we find? That as far as the Nursing interests are concerned, they are but meagrely represented; and a Registration Board composed of ladies, only one of whom, I believe, has held the position of Matron to a Nurse Training School of the first rank, cannot surely claim the right to make regulations and rule the Nursing profession, in London and the Provinces. I think it is time the members required that the names of those who attend the Executive Committee and the Registration Board, should be published quarterly in the *Nurses' Journal*.

We country Matrons are most dissatisfied with the present constitution of both of those Committees, as

they are in no way representative of our interests, nor in consequence, of those of our Nurses.

I should also like to supplement what Miss Knight has said about what seems to me an unnecessarily large office expenditure. We Matrons are working women, and well know how much can, and has to be, done daily by one person, and we think it wrong that Nurses, out of their hardly-earned money, should have to provide the salaries of four paid officials, when so little appears to be accomplished in their interests. Compare the office staff with that provided for a provincial hospital, say of fifty beds, and see in the latter what a Matron has to accomplish daily, single handed. She is housekeeper, bookkeeper, ward sister, lecturer, and general Superintendent in one, and conducts the whole of the correspondence daily; at least that is my experience.

The present financial system of the Royal British Nurses' Association I consider decidedly demoralising, and not calculated to impress Nurses with the vital importance of thrift and cash payments; and I think Miss Knight is right in pointing out that we Nurses can have no true participation or independence in our Association so long as we are dependent for its very existence upon anonymous subscriptions. I am strongly of opinion that until we reduce our expenditure and live strictly within our income, we can never maintain our self-respect, or inspire confidence in others.

I am also quite in sympathy with Miss Knight in her objection to the action of Miss Wedgewood, in voting in the name of the Royal British Nurses' Association against the principle of State Registration. I feel sure the members have never authorised anyone to pledge them to such a course; indeed, Registration of Trained Nurses was our very first *raison d'être*, and as I have always understood, has been publicly sanctioned by our Royal President; so that to adopt an opposing policy simply means relinquishing the principle for which the Association was formed.

I cannot but agree with Dr. Lovell Drage, that the attempt to overawe the Nurse members at a public meeting, by the presence of medical men holding public positions of the highest authority, is calculated to bring these positions into contempt; and it will certainly defeat the object in view if it is a fact that, although he proposed the Resolution at the recent General Meeting, the President of the Royal College of Physicians was not then a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Because in that case he was not, under the provisions of the Royal Charter, entitled even to be present at that meeting, much less to take the slightest part in its proceedings.

I think Dr. Lovell Drage's suggestion that an informal meeting should be arranged, representing all parties, is a most excellent one, because there is no doubt that those who have assumed an absolute autocracy, regardless of the Charter and Bye-laws, are entirely out of sympathy with the first principles of the Association—the *co-operation of the Nurses*; and unless they are prepared to concede this right, we shall be obliged to organise on a more liberal foundation.

Apologising for taking up so much space in your valuable paper,

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLOTTE OKELL, Matron,
Member of Council, R.B.N.A.

Bridgwater Infirmary.

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