

am sure, wishes to do all that is right, but he is rather too apt to say that he left this Association, as Treasurer, in a prosperous condition.

Dr. Fenwick : I never said so. I said that I left it "solvent."

Mr. Langton : Well, I find that when Dr. Fenwick left, there was £47 in the bank, and there were liabilities of double that amount.

Dr. Fenwick : What were the liabilities ?

Mr. Langton : I will let you know. (Mr. Langton then proceeded to read a list of items.) That list does not include the cost of publishing the Register, which ought to have been published before Dr. Fenwick resigned, and should be reckoned as another item. But even taking that out, I find there were one hundred pounds liabilities, leaving the Association still over fifty pounds in debt.

Dr. Fenwick : Will you kindly state the assets at that time ?

Mr. Langton : That I cannot do—no, and it is just as impossible to state the assets to-day. Well then, ladies and gentlemen, there is one thing which I think I ought to mention, and that is the great deal we owe to the medical men who have assisted us and given us their time, and, as you know, time means money. They have also contributed to the funds of this Association over £1,000, which shows the interest they take in the work, and I hope they will always take that interest, and I trust that the Nurses will be truly thankful to the doctors for what they have done.

Dr. Fenwick (who was interrupted by the Chairman, who remarked that he had already spoken) : A personal statement has been made concerning me, and I demand the right to reply. I resigned the Treasurership of the Association because I complained of the fact that £60, beyond the ordinary expenditure, had been squandered in the preceding quarter. If that £60 had been in the Association's coffers, as it ought to have been, the Association would have been in a flourishing condition. Then Mr. Langton knows, or ought to know, that, when I resigned, there was a large sum owing to the Association from advertisers in the Nurses' Journal, against the liabilities he has mentioned, so that the Association was more than solvent when I left office, and that his statement was only half the truth.

The Chairman : I would venture to say that the Treasurer has made a most lucid explanation of the state of the Association's finance, and, while I think everyone has a right to ask ordinary questions, I would point out the inexpediency of any body of people discussing before a meeting matters with which that meeting is unable to deal. I think the speech which Dr. Fenwick has made might more properly be made to the Committee, of which he is a member. I would also, at the same time, point out that bankruptcy is an ugly word, and one which Dr. Fenwick ought not to use. While he would not dare to apply such a word to a private person, he is ready to come here to apply it to this Association. If Dr. Fenwick can really apply the word fitly in the case of this Association, then there are many Associations—flourishing Associations—which are bankrupt. Rather than this Association should become bankrupt, I feel sure that this meeting itself would at once discharge its obligations. I beg to put to you the Resolution that Mr. Hardy be re-appointed as auditor.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman : I now call upon Mr. Fardon to read the Annual Report.

Dr. Fenwick : I rise to a point of order. Whose Annual Report is this? The Charter directs that "The Executive Committee shall, once in every year, prepare an Annual Report, and attach thereto a certified statement of accounts." We have had the proper statement of accounts; I now ask for the Report from the Executive Committee.

The Chairman : I reckon this to be within our power to present the Report in this form—and I think that many such reports were presented when Dr. Fenwick was Treasurer.

Dr. Fenwick : We are bound by the provisions of the Charter.

Mrs. Fenwick : No Report has been placed before the Executive Committee to be presented to the meeting.

The Chairman : In the Bye-law applicable to this point I find that the words are "and to receive Annual, Financial, and other Reports for the past year." It does not prescribe a report from the Executive Committee.

Dr. Fenwick : Be good enough, sir, to turn to the Charter, page 19.

The Chairman : "The Executive Committee shall, once in every year at least, prepare a Report of their proceedings for the year preceding, and attach thereto a statement of accounts." It does not provide that that Report shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. In a matter of this kind I shall act upon precedent. I am informed that, in previous years, such a Report as this was presented by the Medical Hon. Secretary, and I daresay you are anxious to hear about the doings of the past year.

Dr. Fenwick : I beg to enter a formal protest against this infringement of the Charter.

The Chairman : Quite so. A note will be made of that protest.

The Medical Secretary then read his Report as follows, and finally moved its adoption :—

REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 162 members have been elected, 40 have withdrawn, 15 died, and 74 removed from the roll in consequence of being more than two years in arrears with their subscriptions, leaving a total on the roll of 2,712. The total number of Nurses on the Register is 2,516, of whom 172 have been enrolled during the year.

Dr. James Calvert, the late hon. treasurer, and Dr. Bezley Thorne, the late medical Hon. Secretary, having expressed their desire to discontinue the holding of their appointments, their places have been filled by the election of Mr. John Langton and Mr. Edward Fardon respectively. The thanks of the Association are due to Dr. Calvert and Dr. Bezley Thorne for a great deal of time and care devoted to the affairs of the Association, and especially to Dr. Thorne, who, during a period of nearly four years, most ably administered the duties of his appointment.

A special General Meeting was summoned by H.R.H. the President in January last, to consider the action of the plaintiff in the case *Barlow v. Thorne* and others, full particulars of which have been furnished to every member.

The Eighth Annual Conversazione, held in December, proved one of the most successful gatherings of

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