

dishonoured a Council. Mr. Fardon has therefore proposed that no less than seventeen nurses from the Middlesex Hospital shall be elected upon that body. And the Council List therefore which goes out to the members this month shows that 70 out of the 100 matrons proposed, either live abroad or in the provinces; while only about 20 are so near London that they will be able to regularly attend the Meetings of the Council. With regard to the Nurses' list, half of those nominated are either private nurses or are working in distant provincial hospitals, and of the 48 nurses who live in or near London not less than 23 are from the Middlesex Hospital and the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary. This list will doubtless be sent out again to the members without one word of explanation in the hope that they will once more blindly accept it in all good faith. We, therefore, deem it our duty to call their attention to the facts we have given above. The existing packed Council started its career last October by giving its approval to an irregular and invalid proceeding on the part of the officials, and it had to be hurriedly called together again, the following week, to correct this irregularity. At its last meeting, it approved a proceeding which is now engaging the attention of the High Courts of Justice. These are admirable illustrations of the evident fact that the Council packed with Middlesex Hospital Nurses dare not do otherwise than give their approval to any act, however irregular, which may be suggested by the officials; however ridiculous they thereby render themselves or however much discredit they thereby cast on the Association.

We would remind our readers that every nurse member has a duty to perform to the Association and to her profession at this crisis. It is discreditable that their Corporation should thus be governed by the nominees of half a dozen medical men who for purposes of their own are exploiting the Association, are wasting the funds of the Nurses, and are doing nothing for the members, except to bring endless discredit upon them. We call upon the Nurse members to exercise their legal right. Every member will receive in the May number of the *Nurses' Journal* a copy of the proposed Council List for next year. We call upon every Nurse who values her profession, who is ashamed of the present state of affairs, and the needless difficulties in which her Association has been involved,

who objects to the Association being held up to the public as an object for charity—by means of dramatic entertainments, and so forth—and who desires that the national Corporation of Nurses should cease to be domineered over by a little clique of officials, to express her disapproval of their proceedings, BY ERASING FROM THE PROPOSED COUNCIL LIST THE NAMES OF THOSE NURSES WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL AND THE CHELSEA WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.

The Nurse and the Sick Child.*

PARALYSIS IN YOUNG CHILDREN.

By J. EDMUND BROWN, M.D.

How often, in our daily walks and intercourse with people, we meet with persons having one limb so much shorter than the other that some mechanical appliance is necessary to make walking possible! Such appliance for lengthening the deformed leg may be a shoe with sole of unusual thickness, or a light iron frame sufficiently long to meet the requirements of the case. In some cases the limb is so shrivelled and short that it is entirely useless and its place must be supplied by a crutch. How came the person to be thus afflicted? In very few cases is he born so.

Away back in his early childhood, when he was three or four years old, he was overtaken with an acute illness which left the limb paralysed. As a further result of this illness certain muscles in the lower leg began to shrink and the bones lost their normal vitality. In the process of growth the affected member could not keep up with its fellow and hence the deformity.

The causes of paralysis in children are: (1) The toxins of diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and rarely, measles. (2) Some diseased condition of the nerve centres, as congestion, inflammation, &c. (3) Compression or injury of a nerve or nerves. (4) Reflex influences. (5) Degeneration of muscular fibres. The first two are by far the most common causes, the second representing that referred to in the opening paragraph.

Paralysis due to the toxins of certain acute diseases is not usually a serious matter except when the muscles of the heart are involved. In a large majority of cases the affection gradually diminishes and, in a few weeks after the termination of the disease which caused it, has entirely disappeared.

* We reprint this interesting article from the *Nursing World*.

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