

to our readers that they need not be referred to, on this occasion. The main argument advanced by Mr. Fardon is that the officials, in drawing up the General Council list for the forthcoming year, have been unable to prepare a more representative list than that presented. He admits that the present state of affairs is greatly to be deplored, and that the leading matrons have withdrawn their co-operation and support from the Association which has broken its pledges to them; though it is difficult to believe that the officials could have expected self-respecting women to adopt any other course. If the officials had shown themselves desirous, in the slightest degree, of managing the Association as it formerly was conducted, it is quite certain that the leading members would not have withdrawn their sympathy and confidence from them.

Mr. Fardon gives a tabular list showing the institutions with which the new nominations for the Council are connected, and states that 89 are at "hospitals with medical schools attached." He omits to point out that this number includes medical men, although the supposition from the context would be that it referred to matrons and nurses. He states that there are 45 nurses, nominated for election this year on the General Council, who are connected with "Metropolitan Institutions." A more crushing proof, of the terrible discredit which has been inflicted upon the Association by the officials, could hardly be given than this list. St. Bartholomew's, St. Mary's, the London Homœopathic Hospital, and the London Temperance Hospital, have between them only six representatives; while three other hospitals, the Middlesex, St. George's, and the Royal Free, are allotted ten representatives, and the remainder of the 45 are connected with infirmaries and private institutions. In other words, the Association has not only ceased to be representative of the nursing profession, but the serious fact is made plain that the best class of nurse members in the largest institutions decline to take any part in its management. How widely different this is from the state of affairs in the days when the Association was honourably managed need scarcely be pointed out; but it is astonishing that the officials do not seem to be able to comprehend the writing on the wall—in this quiet condemnation of their policy. We refer to this matter, further, in another column.

## Annotations.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

It is widely rumoured that a Sub committee, composed of the hon. officials—Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Miss Thorold, Mr. John Langton, and Mr. Fardon—which it was reported, nearly two years ago, had been deputed by the Executive Committee to consider the revision of the Bye-Laws of the Royal British Nurses' Association, propose new Bye-Laws which would deprive the nurse members of many of the rights and privileges to which they are at present entitled, and would still further depreciate the just and rightful influence of hospital Matrons in the nursing profession. If this be so, the consequences of such ill-judged action will be felt in the sapping of discipline in every hospital in the kingdom, and it behoves Matrons, at once, to take steps to save the nursing profession from the consequent disastrous results. So strong a feeling has already been aroused, that a Members' Rights Defence Committee has been formed, to protect the professional interests of the nurse members, and to bring their views before the public, and concerning which we hope to be able to give full particulars, next week

### PROFESSIONAL INTIMIDATION.

WE must draw the attention of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to a letter, which appeared in the May issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, signed by Dr. Outterson Wood. We stated, some years ago, that the matron members of the Executive Committee of this Association, had been subjected to every insult which it was possible to devise, at the hands of the officials, because, in the honest discharge of their duty, they believed it incumbent upon them to differ from those persons. The policy of insult has for the last few years been systematically continued, against every member who has dared to raise a voice against the present autocracy, and the *Nurses' Journal* has been used as a means of carrying out that policy. It may be remembered that when we wrote to the *Journal* in answer to a letter which contained a personal attack upon ourselves, by Mr. Brudenell Carter, and which we were able to refute, our letter was suppressed. That this is not a solitary instance other members can testify; and the present attack upon Miss Waddington, in the letter to which we referred above, by Dr. Outterson Wood, is but the latest instance of the treatment to which any Matron member of the Association, who dares to possess the courage of her convictions, is exposed. It will

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