

honourably fulfilled; that is to say, the President of that Association and the President of the British Medical Association were made permanent *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee of the Nurses' Association, and were so named in the Bye-laws sanctioned by Her Majesty's Privy Council. The Board entrusted with the details of Nurses' Registration was not formed or constituted by a Bye-law, but by a Regulation passed in October, 1893. And, by this, the Presidents of the two Associations were made permanent *ex officio* Members of the Registration Board of the Nurses' Association. At the same time, the third promise alluded to was fulfilled by the Bye-law, which constituted the Executive Committee, ordaining that this body should comprise *six* general practitioners instead of *four*, as had previously been the case. The Medical Practitioners' Association foresaw that the control of the nurses in professional matters would naturally fall into the hands of the body which controlled their Registration, and the presence of an official representative of the Association upon that body was, therefore, wisely desired. The arrangement definitely promised in 1892, and deliberately carried out in October, 1893, continued without question or dispute until November, 1896, when Mr. Edward A. Fardon, Resident House Physician at the Middlesex Hospital, and Medical Honorary Secretary of the Nurses' Association, proposed that the Registration Board should be reconstituted, and that the Presidents of the two Associations should be deprived of their *ex officio* seats thereon. The Council of the Practitioners' Association immediately protested against this step, which was, however, adopted by the Executive Committee, composed of the officials and their friends; and to the protest Mr. Fardon replied that he was unacquainted with the arrangements and promises of the Association of which he was an official. The Council of the Medical Practitioners' Association thereupon furnished the Executive Committee of the Nurses' Association with the facts given in outline above. It will scarcely be believed that no reply was made to this communication, and that the only excuse made for the breach of faith involved in depriving the President of our Association of an *ex officio* seat on the Nurses' Registration Board, was that the agreement in question was not in writing, and that it was not enforced upon the Nurses' Association by a legal Bye-law. The assertion was also publicly made that the majority of the members of the Medical Practitioners' Association were general practitioners—the slightly veiled sneer being that they might therefore be safely ignored. The Council of our Association considered that such excuses for a deliberate breach of faith

were so extraordinary that there must be something most unusual in the methods of management of the Nurses' Association. A careful inquiry was therefore made, and it was discovered that a small clique had secured complete authority over the Nurses' Association, and that half a dozen medical men were practically autocratic, that they were using the Association for purposes of their own, entirely neglecting the interests of the nurses, and undoubtedly arousing, in consequence, a most bitter feeling of antagonism in the nursing world.

The Council of the Medical Practitioners' Association, who have carefully studied the question are firmly convinced that the future welfare of the medical profession is closely bound up with the due control of trained nurses, and that the latter by their work and devotion deserve the sympathy and assistance of medical men. But the attempt which has been made to intimidate these women, on the part of a few almost unknown medical men, is not only unjust and intolerable to the former, but endangers the cordial relations and mutual trust which is essential to the harmonious working of nurses and medical men if the welfare of the sick is to be efficiently guarded. The Medical Practitioners' Association, therefore, in protesting against the mismanagement of the Nurses' Association and demanding a public inquiry into the matter, is doing all in its power to defend not only the rights of nurses, but also the best interests both of medical men and of the public. The conduct of Mr. Fardon and the other officials proves that not only have they attempted to shuffle the leading nurses out of the management of their own Association, but that they desire to exclude representative medical men from its government also. We can assure the nurses that the medical profession will condemn and repudiate such tactics."

The *Daily Chronicle* and *Star* have given much space during the past week to the affairs of the Royal British Nurses' Association. From the latter we quote the following, and thank our energetic contemporary for its valuable assistance.

#### "NURSES' REVOLT.

##### REVELATIONS MAY BE EXPECTED.

Extraordinary Allegations are Being Made with Reference to the Management of the Royal Nurses' Association.

We are on the eve of the revelation of a scandal long delayed. It concerns the administration of the Royal British Nurses' Association—an Association established to help nurses to help themselves, to provide a register for nurses on a par with the register already provided for the medical profession, and to

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