

have succeeded by various—shall I say irregular—ways? in so re-enforcing the funds of the Association that it has not been possible to wreck it by frivolous and vexatious litigation. I think that fact alone—the discovery of these additional sources of income and the tapping of it with such success, and the defeat which has consequently fallen on the plans of those who expected to reduce the Association to a state of penury—I think that alone is an achievement which fully merits the thanks of this meeting.

A NURSE MEMBER asked if this was a meeting of the Nurses' Association, and, if so, why no nurses spoke in support of the vote of thanks to the Hon. Officers. (Much laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: Nurses, with a modesty suitable to their sex, are a little reluctant to speak at meetings of this kind we are told, but there are plenty present to support the Resolution. (Laughter.)

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK protested that the Resolution was absolutely irregular and of order.

The CHAIRMAN said the vote of thanks to the Hon. Officers was a challenge to test the feeling of the meeting. The Association, as a whole, had that day expressed its confidence in the Officers by electing the Council proposed to them. He therefore put the Resolution as a mere vote of thanks to the meeting, and he stated that 104 rose in support of it.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK advised those who disapproved of this irregular proceeding not to vote on the matter. The Chairman had been forced to decline to accept Dr. Buzzard's motion, and the vote of thanks to himself and the other officials had not been proposed. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN declared the Resolution carried.

Mr. LANGTON said they looked upon that motion as a continuation of the confidence of the Association. He proposed and it was seconded, that Mr. Hardy be appointed as auditor for the ensuing year.

The Resolution was carried.

Dr. ALDERSON moved "That the cordial thanks of this meeting be accorded to Sir James Crichton Browne for his conduct in the Chair."

Miss THOROLD (Vice-President), seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried *nem. con.*

Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE said he thanked the meeting for its kind support. He wished to say that all the Hon. Officers were in complete accord and that they would not have attempts made to sow dissensions in their ranks, for the purpose of serving private ends. The only object he had had in view had been the welfare of the Association, and had he been seeking his own private ends, he should have aimed at a vote of censure that afternoon, which would have relieved him from difficulties such as he had had to face in the past. He would continue diligently to work for the benefit of the Association. Threatened Associations, like threatened men, lived long, and therefore, he had no fears for the future of their Association.

The meeting then dispersed.

IN reply to a number of inquiries concerning Miss Foggo Thompson's proceedings at the annual meeting, we need only give a very simple explanation. She is the Secretary of the Club for Nurses in *The Hospital* building, and the incessant personal attacks which Sir Henry C. Burdett has made upon us, and the Association, in his paper, for years past, are well known in the nursing world.

The Press and the R.B.N.A.

LONG and able reports of the annual meeting of the Association appeared in the majority of the leading daily papers on the 23rd inst., and it is most significant to notice, that already the following papers have demanded a public inquiry into the management.

The *Daily Chronicle* (whose handling of the case has been just and able throughout) says:—"Nothing but an independent investigation can settle the present disputes and enable the Association to carry on the useful work for which it was established."

The *Morning Post* says:—"There ought certainly to be some public inquiry instituted to investigate the matter. Nothing but good can come of it, for it would at least let us know the facts."

The *Morning Leader* is of opinion that "Whatever side the right or wrong may be on, yesterday's meeting should be ample justification for an immediate independent inquiry."

London says:—"As Mr. Jesse Collings has stated in the House of Commons that he did not see his way to hold a public inquiry into the condition of the Association, we may rest assured that the agitation for investigation will continue, and little progress need be expected in the interest of nurses until something is done. . . . Nothing short of an independent investigation can settle the numerous petty disputes and solve the intricate questions which at present paralyse the work of the Royal British Nurses' Association."

The *Star* is very outspoken; it says:—"The maladministration of the Royal British Nurses' Association is doomed. No real abuse, however deep-seated, can long endure the fierce light of publicity. In this case, mismanagement has thriven, for the scandal has been kept dark. Daylight is turned on now, and the official autocracy will not long survive."

The *Western Morning News* says:—"The sooner an inquiry is held into the matter the better for the reputation of the Association."

The *Medical Times* referring to the protest of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, remarks:—"The Medical Practitioners'

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