

**Royal British Nurses' Association.**

## A MEETING OF PROTEST.

A Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 13th, 1897, at St. Martin's Town Hall, to draw attention to the present grave mismanagement of the Association. There was a large and most representative audience present, who evidently took the keenest interest in the matter. The Chair was taken by Dr. HUGH WOODS, President of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association who briefly opened the meeting and then read the Protests already published in the press.

The first Resolution, viz. :—

"That this Meeting expresses the astonishment, which is widely felt, that the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association have not demanded a public Inquiry into the grave charges made against their management, because such a reluctance on their part admits of only one explanation. In view of the great public and professional interests which are involved, this Meeting considers that such an Inquiry is imperatively needed, and it, therefore, hopes that all Members of Parliament will support the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee which will be made, next session, in the House of Commons,"

was proposed by Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, the founder of the Royal British Nurses' Association; seconded by Miss BALGARNIE, supported by Mrs. SOMERVILLE, and was carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman specially asked that the officials, or anyone who could speak for them, should make a reply, but, except a few disjointed sentences from Miss HELEN FOGGE-THOMPSON, no one accepted the opportunity.

The second Resolution, viz. :—

"That copies of the foregoing Resolution, and of the charges referred to, be sent to the leaders of all parties in, and to every Member of, the House of Commons,"

was proposed by Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK, seconded by Miss HOMERSHAM, and was carried unanimously.

The third Resolution, viz. :—

"That a cordial vote of thanks be given to Dr. HUGH WOODS, President of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, for taking the chair on this occasion,"

was proposed and put to the Meeting by Mr. GEORGE BROWN, Member of the General Medical Council.

A full account of this important meeting will be published in our issue next week.

## A PUBLIC PROTEST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Public attention has recently been drawn to the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses'

Association, and especially to the manner in which a small clique of officials have usurped the entire control of that body. The latter appear not to be satisfied with turning out the nurses who founded the Association, for they are now attempting to remove the only independent medical members from its executive committee. They have, without the slightest authority from the members, and without the slightest necessity, drawn up new bye-laws, which would completely alter the present constitution of the Association, although this has, since its foundation in 1887, proved quite sufficient.

In 1893, the existing bye-laws, authorised by the Privy Council, gave permanent *ex-officio* seats on the executive committee to the presidents, for the time being, of the British Medical Association and of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association. It is now proposed by the officials that the presidents of these representative bodies should be turned off the executive committee. They have not had the courtesy to consult our council on the matter, and it is obvious that if their proposal were carried into effect a deliberate breach of faith would be committed. Their suggestion is, chiefly significant because it proves the assertion already made, that the officials are desirous, if possible, to remove every independent member from the governing bodies of the Nurses' Association, and thus not only to secure the entire control in their own hands but also to stifle all criticism of their proceedings.

The good government of the Chartered Corporation of Nurses is a matter of deep concern both to the public and to the medical profession. The Central Council of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association feels, therefore, compelled for the protection of the great interests involved to urge once more the necessity of a public inquiry being held into the management of the Association

We are, Madam, yours faithfully,

HUGH WOODS, President.

FRANK GREAVES, Senior Hon. Secretary.

(Signed on behalf of the Council.)

Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association,  
11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

## LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN.

Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis,  
Portland Terrace,

Regent's Park.

SIR,—As I am unable to be present at the meeting convened by the Members' Rights Defence Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which I am a member, I shall deem it a favour if you will be good enough to read the following letter to those assembled :—

I joined the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1888. The objects for which the Association was founded were then clearly defined, being: (1) To

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