

"The animus of the writer is so evident that further comment appears to be unnecessary.

"Perhaps you will be good enough to publish this letter in your next issue.

"Yours faithfully,

"MEAR & FOWLER."

OUR opinion on the mental nurse question is perfectly well known. We strongly disapprove of any woman being placed upon a Register of Trained Nurses who has not gained practical experience of general nursing in a hospital ward, because unless she has this experience, she is not a trained nurse. If asylum attendants desire the privilege of professional status, they must qualify for it, and this, we are very sure, many of them would be willing to do.

It is an absolutely ridiculous idea that a woman can become a trained nurse by undertaking the care of patients suffering from one class of diseases only; and women, who attend upon those suffering with diseases of the brain only, have no more right to claim that they are thoroughly trained than masseuses, midwives, monthly, ophthalmic, and fever attendants would be justified in claiming that they are fully qualified.

THE contention that specialism is possible—apart from a knowledge of general nursing—is as dangerous in the scheme of education for a nurse, as it would be in the analogous case of a medical man; and Dr. Outterson Wood's scheme of registration of specialists, so promptly exemplified by Sir Henry Burdett in his appalling Directory, will, we have no doubt, rouse the nursing profession and the public to unite in a demand for legal registration of trained nurses in self-defence; especially when it becomes known that the Executive Committee have arranged *without the consent of the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who have paid for registration, to omit the Nurses' addresses in the forthcoming issue of the Register of Trained Nurses*—thus depriving the latter of the whole practical usefulness of registration, and reducing their professional Association to a secret society, in which the Hon. Officers and their friends alone will possess the means of communication with the members!! It is almost impossible to realize that men can be found at the end of the nineteenth century to attempt the impossible task of crushing out all sense of independence and self-respect in a Chartered Corporation of British women; and those who have attempted to do so will speedily learn, that they have thereby only covered themselves with endless ridicule.

WE are always much amused at the manner in which the anonymous contributors to Sir Henry

Burdett's journal voice the policy of the Editor. For instance, for some four years past Sir Henry Burdett's friends on the Royal British Nurses' Association have been moving heaven and earth to find a loophole to exclude us from the General Council and Executive Committee of the Association we founded. Eminent Counsel have been consulted, and have one and all made reply that this can only be done by the alteration of the Bye-Law constituting the Executive Committee. Hence the motive for depriving the leaders of the nursing world—the Matrons of the large training schools—of their *ex-officio* seats upon the Committee!!

WE are of opinion that the Hon. Officers would have at least shown some common sense if they had had the courage to propose simply and solely to omit our name from the new Bye-Laws, while not incurring the odium of depriving our colleagues in active service of their *ex-officio* seats, on the Executive Committee. But this would have given colour to the truth, that their attack upon ourselves was a personal matter, as well as a high compliment which we appreciate, so all the Matrons are to be deprived of their seats and no *independent* member is to be left to protest against the present illegal and discreditable conduct of business.

Appointments.

MISS DORA PRESSLAND has been appointed Matron of the County Hospital, Durham. Miss Pressland has had a varied nursing experience, and for the past five years has held the position of Assistant-Matron at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Pressland holds many excellent testimonials, and we wish her all success in her future sphere of increased professional responsibility.

MISS AGNES REID has been appointed Matron of the Forres Leanoil Hospital, N.B. Miss Reid was trained at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and for some years has had charge of the operating theatre in that institution.

MRS. REDMOND has been appointed Matron of the Waterford District Lunatic Asylum. Mrs. Redmond was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has recently worked in connection with the Trained Nurses' Institute, 28, South Terrace, Cork. Mrs. Redmond is a Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a registered nurse, and is one of the "steadfast and true" nurses who support the original principles of the Association. We wish her all success in her new work.

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