

sooner or later they *will have* professional status, and that until this modicum of justice is conceded to them, they will continue, in season and out of season, to demand it, the victory will be practically won. Let us, therefore, set ourselves, in the year which lies before us, to lay aside all unworthy, selfish, and unpatriotic views on this crucial subject, and patiently, persistently, and perseveringly bring before the nursing profession, the public, and Members of Parliament the urgent need of legislation, both as an act of justice to trained nurses, and as a necessary protection to the sick.

Nursing in 1897.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

DURING the past year, the history of this Association has been that of a continual protest on the part of those members who consider it their duty to maintain in their integrity the rights and privileges granted to them by the Queen in Council. The year opened with the attempt on the part of the Hon. Officers to depreciate the Register of Trained Nurses by placing upon it male and female asylum attendants who had received no training in a general hospital, a qualification exacted from all registered members of the Corporation since the expiration of the term of grace in 1890. It closed with the passing of a code of new Bye-Laws at a meeting summoned in London a week before Christmas, and composed largely of past and present members of the Middlesex Hospital Nursing Staff. These nurses, influenced largely, no doubt, by the strong pressure brought to bear by the officials and members of the medical staff of that institution, deliberately voted away many privileges granted to trained nurses under the present Bye-Laws, which they held in trust for future generations, and allowed the government of their profession to pass out of the hands of the nurses themselves into those of a small official permanent Executive Committee. The fact that at this meeting all letters addressed by absent members of the Corporation, to their fellow-members assembled in General Meeting, were withheld as usual by the Hon. Officers, affords strong evidence of the truth of the assertion that members are denied liberty of speech by those at present in power.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Matrons' Council have this year been quietly watching the course of events in the Nursing World. They have seen, with the greatest hope and pleasure, the excellent spirit with which leaders of nursing thought are considering the subject of professional organization in the British Colonies and the United States. They are hopeful that the coming year will be one in which there will be much true sympathy and practical co-operation between those matrons who are already fully awake to their professional responsibilities. One of their chief works will be the elaboration of the Directory of Nurses who hold a three years' certificate of training. It is fully recognized by the Matrons' Council that it is only by co-operation and sympathy between those women who have done so much to establish the standard of nurse-training, that the three years' certificated standard—a safeguard of infinite value both to trained nurses and to the public—can be maintained, in the face of the determined depreciation of the status of trained nurses by the Royal British Nurses' Association, taken in conjunction with the fact of the issue of Sir Henry Burdett's Nursing Directory, which is largely composed of the names of persons who have no claim to be called trained nurses.

NURSING IN THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

In the Hospital World considerable progress in the furtherance, or organization, of nursing education has been made. In several institutions, moreover, there has been a mitigation in the length of the hours on duty of the nurses, and, at the London and Guy's Hospitals, we understand, many much-needed reforms have been made—the most notable at Guy's being that of justice to the general probationers, promotion to the position of ward sisters being now made on the ground of efficiency, and not of payment of fees. Several important hospitals have changed Matrons during the past year, the most noteworthy being the retirement of Mrs. Coster from the Matronship of St. George's Hospital after having held this position for nearly thirty years, and the appointment of Miss Florence Smedley, a gold medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and, for the last few years, the Matron of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. In the Fever Nursing world, the most important event has, without doubt, been the

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