

THE whirligig of time, indeed, brings round its own revenges. It is not a year ago since Dr. Thorne and the majority of the medical members of the Executive Committee supported Mr. Edward Fardon when he brought forth his Council List, packed with eighteen members of the Middlesex Hospital Nursing Staff and other "loyal members," preparatory to passing the new Bye-Laws, so that this "snob in the eye"—to use the elegant phraseology of Dr. Bezly Thorne—to which the members are now so well accustomed, was the more characteristic.

THE present Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association have exerted every influence in their power for months past, to prevent the public inquiry into the management of its affairs widely demanded by the public press; and consistent in their policy, they have been compelled to fall out with their whilom ally. In this connection, there is an old and well-known proverb which we imagine will occur to the memory of "the small and turbulent" without quotation.

FAIR PLAY IS A JEWEL.

A FACETIOUS correspondence, started by Dr. Bezly Thorne, in the *Hospital*, has been cut short by Sir Henry Burdett. In this Dr. Thorne attempted to deny that the Royal British Nurses' Association ever promised an *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee to the President of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, a statement, of course, which is eminently ridiculous, considering that the promise was not only made, but incorporated in the Bye-Laws approved by the Privy Council in 1893; and in consequence of which the Presidents of that influential Association have taken an active part in the work of the Nurses' Association for the past four years.

DR. HUGH WOODS, the present President of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, answering Dr. Bezly Thorne, makes much humorous capital out of Dr. Thorne's repudiation of an honourable contract, and, perhaps, under the circumstances he is wise to take the matter lightly. No one who has had anything to do with the official policy of the Royal British Nurses' Association for the last four years expects honourable dealing in the present conduct of its affairs.

As we tabulated for presentation to the Privy Council, the whole list of medical men who were good enough to sign the Petition for the grant of a Royal Charter, we can certify that a decided majority were members of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association. The Council of this Association was the only official body of medical men who sent a special Resolution to the Privy Council in support of the appeal of the Royal British Nurses' Associa-

tion for a Royal Charter. We owe this Association, therefore, a deep debt of gratitude for help in time of need, and to oust their President from his *ex-officio* seat on our Executive, and to repudiate our arrangement with them, is a contemptibly mean action, which we are glad to say hundreds of nurse members strongly resent; and no sophistry on the part of Dr. Bezly Thorne will convince them to the contrary.

Nursing at the Prince Alfred Hospital.

THE curriculum of nursing at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, New South Wales, is apparently far more advanced and thorough than that of many English training schools. We have, by the courtesy of the matron, Miss M'Gahey, received a copy of the examination questions set to the nurses in December of last year, and very excellent they are. For the first year nurses, the questions are upon elementary nursing, anatomy, physiology, and invalid cookery, and they are required to know how to change the sheets on the bed of a helpless patient, how to prepare a bed for an operation case, and how to prepare and administer enemata. They are also required to be acquainted with the course of the circulation, the process of digestion, and to describe the formation and position of cancellous tissue, the periosteum, and so forth. With regard to invalid cookery, they are expected to know the difference between boiling mutton for meat and preparing it for broth, to know what sauce and potatoes should be served with it, and to give recipes for preparing both. They are also asked to give recipes for dishes suitable for a patient recovering from a serious illness, as well as to know the most suitable animal and vegetable foods for convalescent patients, so that the course for the first year nurses is a very full one. The second year nurses are examined in materia medica, medical and surgical nursing, and the nursing of sick children. We are especially glad to notice the last paper, as in too many English hospitals the nursing of sick children is thrown in, so to speak, with the nursing of adults, with obvious disadvantages to the latter, while it is quite impossible that the nursing of the children should attain a high degree of efficiency under such untoward conditions. The third year course includes specialities in nursing, such as ophthalmic nursing, electricity and massage, gynæcological nursing, and the nursing of the insane and delirious, the training thus being based upon the wise and scientific principle that the general training should precede the special. We should be glad to see some training in obstetric nursing included in the curriculum of this and all other training schools, as we believe that every fully qualified nurse should be acquainted

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