

### 'Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE following comments upon the proposed new Bye-Laws of this Association, and their comparison with the Bye-Laws now existing, and which have served the Association very well from the time of its foundation until now, have been drawn up by the Committee which it has, unhappily, been found necessary to form in order to defend the rights given to the Members of this Association, by the Royal Charter and existing Bye-Laws, against the strenuous efforts which have been made by the present officials to nullify and withhold those rights.

#### EXISTING BYE-LAWS.

##### SECTION A.

##### *The Honorary Officers.*

I.—The Honorary Officers shall be a Patron, Vice-Presidents, three Vice-Chairmen of the General Council and Executive Committee, of whom one shall be a Physician, one a Surgeon, and one a Nurse; a Treasurer and two Honorary Secretaries, of whom one shall be a Medical Man, and one a Nurse.

It is submitted that these Bye-Laws go beyond the provisions of the Charter, and are, therefore, *ultra vires*. The Charter (Section "As to the President and Honorary Officers) ordains: "*There shall be a President of the Association and such number of Honorary Officers as the Association may from time to time think fit to appoint.*" It is plain that the Bye-Laws cannot create offices not sanctioned by the Charter. In other words, if the Association desires to have a Patron or Vice-Presidents they must be Honorary Officers, as provided for in the existing Bye-Law, inasmuch as the Charter does not separately authorize such officers as a Patron and Vice-Presidents. It is, therefore, submitted that the first three new Bye-Laws are *ultra vires*, and that the fourth is consequently incomplete, seeing that it takes no note of the Royal ladies and eminent gentlemen who have been, and are now, Vice-Presidents; and that it is also redundant seeing that the last clause quite unnecessarily repeats the provision of the Royal Charter already quoted.

2.—The election of the Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, and the Honorary Secretaries shall take place annually at the October meeting of the General Council, and these officers shall be eligible for re-election.

#### SUGGESTED ADDITION AT THE END OF THE ABOVE SENTENCE.

"Any casual vacancy caused by the death or resignation of any one of these officers may be filled up at the next Ordinary or Special Meeting of the General Council."

#### PROPOSED NEW BYE-LAWS.

##### BYE-LAWS.

I.—The Corporation shall have power to appoint a Patron.

II.—The Corporation shall have power to appoint Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office at the will of the Corporation.

III.—The persons who at the date of the coming into operation of these Bye-Laws hold the office of Vice-President shall be the first Vice-Presidents under these Bye-Laws.

IV.—The Honorary Officers shall be three Vice-Chairmen, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, of whom one shall be a duly qualified Medical Practitioner as defined by the Medical Acts, and one a Nurse, and such other Honorary Officers as the Corporation may from time to time appoint.

V.—The Honorary Officers shall be elected by the General Council upon the nomination of the Executive Committee. Such election shall be made annually at the first Meeting of the General Council after the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation. An Honorary Officer retiring at such Meeting of the General Council may be nominated for re-election. In the case of a casual vacancy occurring among the Honorary Officers, a person may be elected to fill the vacant office either at the next Ordinary Meeting of the General Council, or if the election cannot conveniently be delayed till that Meeting, then at a Meeting of the Council to be specially summoned for the purpose. A person elected to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office so long as the person in whose place he was elected would have held the same.

VI.—If a person nominated for election or re-election to an Honorary Office be not elected or re-elected at the Meeting of the General Council at which the election or re-election ought to take place, the Executive Committee shall, as soon as possible, nominate some other person for election at a Meeting of the General Council to be subsequently held, and so on until the vacancy shall be filled up.

If the first three Bye-Laws be not sanctioned, Bye-Laws V. and VI., which clearly refer only to the election of the Honorary Officers specified in Bye-Law IV. would, if sanctioned, cause the gravest

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