

Nursing Politics.

AN APPEAL TO CÆSAR.

WE had the pleasure of addressing two meetings of four branches of the Women's Liberal Federation on Thursday and Friday of last week, on the question of "The Royal British Nurses' Association, and its relation to the Public," and the intelligent interest of the audiences was very gratifying. The following resolution was in both instances carried unanimously:—"In view of the great public and professional interests involved in the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, this meeting is of opinion that a public inquiry is imperatively needed into the conduct of its business by the present Hon. Officers. It therefore hopes that all Members of Parliament will support the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee, which is to be made this session in the House of Commons, 'to inquire into the whole Nursing question.'"

SINCE the "great betrayal" of the professional interests of the nurses in 1894, we have always advocated the fullest publicity concerning the affairs of the Association, because we were well aware that, could the public once realize the species of tyranny and intimidation—which was so clearly demonstrated in the official's threat to remove Miss Barlow's name from the Register, and the attitude of their supporters on the Executive Committee, *when they, without any communication with this lady, incited the paid Secretary to take legal proceedings against a nurse member, making themselves responsible for her expenses*—they would indignantly demand that men who bullied defenceless women should be at once removed from all authority in the Nurses' Association.

AND since speaking on the subject of the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association to the women of North London, we are more convinced than ever that should the new code of Bye-Laws be sanctioned by the Privy Council, the wisest thing to do will be to address public meetings, from one end of the country to the other, exposing the whole disgraceful circumstances of the case, and naming, as we did at Hornsey, those men who have combined together to deprive trained nurses of liberty of speech, and all power in their own professional association.

THE just indignation our address aroused, and the enthusiasm with which the audience passed the resolution, were proof positive of their appreciation of the wrongs and indignities to which the nurse members have submitted too long; and when the public know the circumstances of the case, and the names of the dozen men who in their jealousy of the co-operation of nurses, and of the progress of

women, have used such unjustifiable means to prevent all self-government on the part of nurses, we feel sure they will find means to intimate to these gentlemen that their reign of tyranny must cease, and that without further parley. The part played by the medical and nursing staffs of the Middlesex hospital in this controversy aroused the deepest indignation upon the part of our audience, some of whom promised to communicate with subscribers to that Hospital on the subject, as the committee have refused to interfere.

BOGUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

IN the current number of the *Nurses' Journal* (which is, by-the-by, much better papered and printed than its predecessor), we find a paragraph headed "Misleading Advertisements"—warning British Nurses to beware of advertisements of a bogus character. This is good advice, but, upon turning to the advertisement columns of our official organ, we find, dovetailed in between the Register of Trained Nurses and a notice of our Sessional Lectures, a half-page given up (we hope it is paid for) to an advertisement of "Burdett's Official Nursing Directory, 1898"!

WE are of opinion that the lack of professional feeling upon the part of the Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal* in advertising a so-called Nursing Directory, edited by a layman, in which the names of persons are placed, who have never received a day's hospital training, side by side with the names of thoroughly trained nurses, whose names have been thus inserted by Sir Henry Burdett without their permission, and which appear to have been pasted in from an old copy of the "Register," is an injury to professional nurses; and we consider that to utilize the official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association to foist upon the public a list of "bogus" nurses, is very much more unscrupulous and dangerous, than for the lay press to advertise "bogus" cocoas.

WE also observe that a full page advertisement is inserted concerning Sir Henry Burdett's Nurses' Club. It is surely not possible that the "scum of the nursing profession" (Sir Henry Burdett's "fair comment" upon the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association) are eligible for membership of this very select establishment? The manner in which the *Nurses' Journal* is being utilized to puff Sir Henry Burdett's commercial ventures in the nursing world is only another proof of the "great betrayal" of our professional interests.

THE WHOLE NURSING QUESTION

THE following reply to Mr. G. B. Hudson's letter to the *Lancet* appears in last week's issue of that journal, from Dr. Hugh Woods. We only hope that the "staff of the Middlesex Hospital" will screw up their courage to the sticking point, and

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