

operation; practices which were followed by Miss Jackson, on a wider scale, utilizing the knowledge of medical men and patients which she had obtained as the Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society, in promoting the success of her new undertaking. We described these proceedings at the time as discreditable, and a large amount of evidence, which we have received since, proves that this adjective was by no means inappropriate. We are confident that some at least of the medical men who have since joined the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society are unacquainted with the methods of its formation, or with those adopted in its subsequent management.

We have, for some months past, heard more or less grave complaints from medical men, from nurses, and from the public, concerning the working of this Society. We referred, recently, to strange rumours which are pervading the nursing world on this subject; and have now been furnished with authoritative evidence that a nurse member of the Chartered Nurses' Society who made a complaint to its Committee on certain matters which she considered affected both the nurse members and the public, received at once a threatening letter from a well-known firm of solicitors, and, shortly afterwards, was informed that **CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST HER.**

We said lately that such a threat was "incredible." We apologize for, and withdraw that statement, and confess that we should have better known the characters of some of the members of the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society. We are not astonished to hear that this threat has not been carried out, because it would certainly have aroused an outburst of passionate public indignation, which would have had the most serious results for the ladies and gentlemen in question. That a woman who made a complaint regarding the management of her own Society, to the persons who had made themselves responsible for that management, should be even threatened by them with arrest and imprisonment, is an outrage which it would be difficult to equal, but which, of course, was, in smaller measure, anticipated by the threat of these very same men to ruin a nurse professionally, because she had complained in this Journal of the mismanagement of the Royal British Nurses' Association. When that nurse defended herself, her assailants ran away—a somewhat typical

proceeding on the part of those who attempt to bully women.

We understand that the member of the Chartered Nurses' Society has of course been compelled to place the matter in the hands of her solicitors, and therefore we are prevented at present from commenting further upon it except to commiserate the members of that Society upon the yoke they have placed upon their necks.

We have received, this week, from two sources, information which we cannot regard as creditable. We are informed that nurses, sent to patients of medical men upon the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society by other private nursing institutions, have been strongly advised by those gentlemen to leave their present employers and join the Society in question! We understand that in ordinary business circles an attempt to alienate valuable servants from another employer is generally condemned as very "sharp practice," and we cannot believe that the medical profession would consider it creditable that any of its members should descend to such methods. To protect other employers from their commercial and predatory proceedings, we feel compelled to say that if we receive a similar complaint again we shall publish the name of the medical man involved. And, in any case, private nursing institutions will doubtless take steps to guard themselves against such dishonourable attempts to deprive them of the services of members of their staff. The other matter to which we have referred may have most serious consequences, and therefore we will not allude to it, at present.

Annotations.

DISCIPLINE.

THE resignation of Miss Barwick, matron of the Llanely Hospital, on the ground that a nurse whom she holds to be unsuitable has been appointed, by the board, head nurse of the hospital, raises a question affecting the position of all matrons. It is obvious that if a matron is to fulfil adequately the duties of her responsible position, her authority must be supported by the committee of management. What is to be said of the position of a matron who objects to the appointment of a nurse, when that nurse is, in spite of her objection, appointed? Obviously her position is an untenable one. All discipline amongst the nursing staff must be at an end, when one

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