

5. That certain grave charges of mismanagement have been publicly made against the said officials, and that it is most desirable for the welfare of the said Association that the said charges should be inquired into.

6. That most of the members of the Association live in the provinces and abroad, and by reason of the exigencies of their work are quite unable to be present at any Meeting in London, and to vote against the said unnecessary alteration of the Bye-Laws.

7. That these Bye-Laws, were, however, sanctioned by a majority of the comparatively small number who could be present at a meeting held in London, on December 17th, and will be at once presented to the Lords of the Privy Council for their sanction.

8. Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Lordships will graciously refuse to sanction the said new Bye-Laws until a public inquiry has been held into the said charges made against the present management of the said Association. Or your Petitioners further pray that your Lordships will be graciously pleased to hear Counsel on the above matters, before your Lordships sanction the new Bye-Laws.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS MARION LLOYD has been appointed Matron of the Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary. Miss Lloyd was trained at the Bristol General Hospital, and has since acted as Night Superintendent and Deputy-Matron of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and Matron of the Cancer Hospital, Manchester, so that she has had considerable experience to qualify her for the post to which she has been appointed.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

MISS BASTER has been appointed second Assistant Matron at the Lambeth Infirmary. Miss Baster entered the service of the Infirmary, as an assistant nurse, upwards of twenty years ago, and had previously worked in the Earlswood Asylum, and the Shoreditch Infirmary; she has, therefore, had an exceptionally long experience of work under the Poor Law.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

MISS MARGARET WALKER has been appointed Superintendent Nurse at the Lancaster Union Infirmary. Miss Walker was trained at Huddersfield Infirmary, and subsequently worked at Carlisle, and at Fulwood, in Lancashire.

Matrons in Council.

SUGGESTIONS ON THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE REQUIRED FOR FUTURE MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.*

By ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB.

THE constitution of this Association, as originally adopted, recognizes four classes of members, viz.: active, associate, honorary, and corresponding members.

In the records of the annual meeting of 1896,

* Read before the American Society of Superintendents of Nurses at Toronto, Canada, February 10th, 1898.

will be found a report by a special committee on "Eligibility for Membership," the discussion that followed, and the action of the meeting upon that report. Last year another committee was appointed to formulate the necessary changes with a view to a still further amendment. With your permission, I shall read the first amendment and part of the discussion that followed.

(Read here from book). Note in particular the sentence "I think it is in the mind of this Association that we shall have some standard, and we are now trying to make a standard." But the question that has lately forced itself upon me is, "Are we working towards the true standard, when we regard as a passport for membership in our Association the position held, rather than the quality of training and education of the woman who holds it?" It is true we require that "members shall be graduates in good and regular standing, from training schools connected with incorporated general hospitals giving not less than a two years' course of instruction." So far as this requirement goes we all meet on common ground, but we diverge the moment the kind of hospital held is taken into consideration, and on this basis forthwith are divided into active, associate and visiting members. It does not seem to me that this is exactly fair or just to the women who have not been fortunate enough to secure appointments in large training schools, or who for good reasons may prefer to do their work in the smaller hospitals, and hold in them positions that are often just as responsible, if not more so, than the corresponding ones of the larger institutions. Because a trained nurse remains in a smaller hospital it does not signify that she is not just as capable, interested and progressive in her work as her friend of the larger school. Besides, on this continent of frequent changes, it may be the case that we are here to-day and gone to-morrow, so that the more prominent positions may at any time be filled by the women from smaller schools. Would it not seem, therefore, that all other things being equal, the truer standard

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