

and the matrons of the largest Training Schools were therefore given permanent, *ex-officio*, seats upon the Executive Committee and General Council of that body; and to this wise step a large portion of the success so rapidly achieved by that Association was undoubtedly due. In 1895, Dr. Bezly Thorne succeeded in turning the matrons of the Metropolitan Hospitals, who had for seven years held permanent seats on the General Council, off that body; and if the Privy Council sanctions the proposed new Bye-Laws, the seats on the Executive Committee, still belonging to the leaders of the nursing profession, will be likewise vacated.

It is clearly understood that this grave step—this breach of faith with the leaders of the nursing profession, this careful exclusion of the leading nurses from the management of their own special Association—has been manœuvred and accomplished by Sir James Crichton Browne, Mr. John Langton, Mr. Edward Fardon, and Dr. Bezly Thorne, aided by an Executive and General Council packed with their friends and dependants. The only matrons who have taken any prominent part in these proceedings are Miss Thorold, of the Middlesex Hospital; Miss Wedgewood, of the Royal Free Hospital; and Miss De Pledge, of the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary. And the only body of nurses who have supported them are those on the staff of the Middlesex Hospital, who are, of course, largely dependent upon Mr. Fardon and Miss Thorold. In other words, it must now and for all future time be clearly understood that the great body of nurses on the Association, and certainly none of the eminent medical men connected with it, have taken part in these proceedings. The entire responsibility for these must now, and always hereafter, be placed upon the few medical men and matrons we have mentioned, and upon the nurses of the Middlesex Hospital. We have before us a list of nearly eighty matrons of Metropolitan and Provincial Hospitals, who have protested against the proceedings in question, and they represent many hundreds of nurses working in their respective institutions. The net result of the new Bye-Laws is that the management of the Nurses' Association has been wrested out of the hands of the nurses and given over to a small clique of medical men. This, of course, forecasts the ruin of the Association, because few nurses will be so unwise as to join or support an Association managed under such auspices.

The leaders of the nursing world will certainly decline to be the nominees and catspaws of the Middlesex clique, and will, therefore, decline to take any part whatever in the management of the Association. It is possible that this result is exactly what the present managers of the Association desire; but it is evident to us that they have not realised that the matter will not end there. The breach of faith with the leading hospital matrons has destroyed the confidence of the nursing profession in any pledges, promises or agreements which may be proposed by the Association, and it is seen that at present the Association may even be of actual danger to nurses. The natural result has been that the advisability of the matrons combining in their own defence, has been widely discussed. It is apparent that their removal from the Royal British Nurses' Association has been accomplished because their influence over their nurses is feared; and it is obvious that such a serious blow at the rightful influence and prestige of the matrons will be felt in many ways in every British Hospital.

It is strongly suggested that the matrons should combine in their own defence and for the protection of nurses, and should form a register of nurses, admitting thereto only those women who have had a three years' hospital training, and who have passed, at its termination, a satisfactory examination. This suggestion entails a scheme for a new organization which appears to us to be not only feasible, but also most valuable both for the nursing profession and the public. It is, at any rate, quite certain not only that hospital matrons would be most unwise to permit their rightful influence over their nurses to be wrested from them, but also that the best trained nurses themselves will strongly uphold their leaders in any movement which seems necessary to assert the rights of the nursing profession to control and manage its own affairs.

Annotations.

NURSING THE WOUNDED.

WE have during the past week—no doubt in consequence of the part we took in organizing the nursing department in connection with the *Daily Chronicle* National Fund in the recent Græco-Turkish War—received several offers of service from nurses, should war be declared

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