

publication in their organ, the *Hospital*, in the following form, omitting, as we were informed at the time, the beginning and ending of each letter so as to make the former appear like a circular instead of a private communication, and publishing the correspondence without informing the Secretary of their intention to do so—a significant neglect of a rule which, needless to add, is invariably adhered to amongst people who are not “uncertain in the use of aspirates.” The *Hospital*, on April 25th, 1891, stated:—

“The following correspondence has passed between the Honorary Secretary of the Royal British Nurses’ Association and the Treasurer of St. Thomas’s Hospital, as the representative of the Nurse Training Schools:—

“As a Meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses’ Association has been convened by her Royal Highness, the President, to consider the opposition of yourself and others to the incorporation of the Association under the 23rd Section of the Companies Acts of 1867, I beg to inform you that it will be held at 20, Hanover Square, London, on Thursday, April 16th, at 5 p.m., and that you, or any other representatives of Nurse Training Schools who desire to be present at this Meeting, will be welcomed.

BEDFORD FENWICK,
Hon. Secretary.”

April 13th, 1891.

“I have to acknowledge receipt of your invitation to join a discussion on the question of the opposition by all the leading Nurse Training Schools of the country to the application of the Royal British Nurses’ Association, for a Board of Trade license. No one can regret more sincerely than I do that there should be the necessity for such an opposition. The Royal British Nurses’ Association is alone to blame for this most unfortunate state of disagreement, as its actions have been in direct opposition to the expressed opinion of nearly all those who knew most of the subject. Personally, I feel it is much to be regretted that our Most Gracious Sovereign’s name should have been allowed to be associated with a movement, which those most truly and historically interested in this nationally important work believe to be inimical to its welfare, and at the same time, misleading, rather than otherwise, to the public. I may add, that the objections to your proceedings are fully stated in the memorials to the President of the Board of Trade, and our future action will be guided by the Committee of Representatives of the Nurse Training

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Schools, now in communication with the Board of Trade. I feel, therefore, that my presence at your meeting would serve no useful purpose.

J. G. WAINWRIGHT, *Treasurer.*”

“St. Thomas’s Hospital, April 16, 1893.”

We do not, of course, know how many times more the Association invited its opponents to attend its public meetings. But, as we have duly reported all those meetings, we know that these gentlemen, if they attended, never ventured to express their views on these occasions. They preferred the safer, if less usual, course of making misleading misstatements privately against the Association; such as those, for example, exposed and reputed in the circular of the Association, to which we drew attention last week; or as that remarkable instance to which Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK called attention at the Quarterly Court of Governors of the London Hospital, as reported in our columns in September, 1891, and which for convenience, now, we place in parallel columns.

Dr. FENWICK said that the Committee of the London Hospital had made the following absolutely unfounded statement to the Board of Trade, although they had before them, at the time, the regulations relating to Registration, the first of which he quoted as follows:—

STATEMENT TO THE BOARD
OF TRADE.

“A lady’s-maid of good character, who had been for three years in attendance upon a bed-ridden mistress, might, on obtaining a satisfactory testimonial from a medical man, be placed on the Register. The same might be said of a valet in like manner engaged. These individuals might be placed upon the same footing as a highly-trained Hospital Nurse, who had passed through a tedious and strict curriculum, and who had satisfied a severe test as to her fitness.”

REGULATION FOR REGIS-
TRATION, NO. I.

“Applications for Registration must produce proof that they have been engaged for three years in work in Hospitals or Infirmarys, of which not less than twelve months must have been spent in a recognized general Hospital containing, at least, forty beds.”

After this, it is difficult to know whether to wonder more at the extraordinary ability of the Committee of the London Hospital to pervert the truth, or, at the wonderful gullibility of the Board of Trade. But, perhaps it was a novelty in the experience of the latter that the managers of a public Charity should

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