

have been made than that the founders and *ex-officio* members of the Association should be taken off its governing body, and that such a suggestion could only emanate from those who do not appreciate the principles of a professional union of Trained Nurses or are ignorant of the inevitable result which must follow if the personal influence of the present *ex-officio* members is withdrawn.

The facts of the case are beyond dispute. A very large majority of Sisters and Nurses trained in any Nursing school will loyally support the opinions in Nursing matters formed by the Matron of their hospital. A certain number of these Matrons, after conscientious consideration, formed the opinion that it was right to support the aims and objects of the Association—that is, the organisation of Nursing into a well-defined profession—a result which can only be obtained by professional co-operation. They carefully explained their views to their Nursing Staffs, with the happy result that many Nurses, trained in those particular schools, joined the Association. On the other hand, in those schools where the Matrons formed—we believe, upon equally conscientious grounds—different views, a very limited number of their staffs have, even if perhaps in sympathy with the main objects of the Association, joined its ranks. *The fact, therefore, is indisputable that without the active interest of the Matrons the Association, for all practical purposes, would cease to exist.*

We observe from the list of the Council proposed by Dr. Bezly Thorne that he has removed the names of the following *ex-officio* Matrons who originally accepted their seats in consequence of a formal official invitation and in consequence of the will of the Association as expressed in the Bye-Laws. Miss L. Hogg, Head Sister, Royal Naval Nursing Service; Miss C. Loch, Senior Lady Superintendent, Indian Nursing Service; Miss Isla Stewart, Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Thorold, of the Middlesex Hospital; Miss G. Rogers, of the Leicester Infirmary; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

In accordance with the regulations, one-third of the *elected* Matrons (having served on the Council three years), are replaced yearly, and this year our Association unfortunately loses the most valuable services and personal support of the following members: Miss C. Beachcroft, County Hospital, Lincoln; Miss M. Cureton, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; Miss Kavanagh, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital; Miss R. F. Lumsden, Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen; Miss Georgina Scott, Sussex County Hospital, Brighton; Miss Mary Harris, Suffolk

General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds; Miss C. Bann, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; Miss Agnes Gibson, New Infirmary, Birmingham; Miss Mary Cadbury, Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Mary Huxley, Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, Dublin; Miss Macintyre, Wigan Infirmary; Miss Miriam Ridley, Miss Louisa East, Miss Butler, Miss Euphemia Ross, and many other early members and earnest workers—losses which, taken in conjunction with Dr. Bezly Thorne's proposal to remove the founders of the Association from its governing body (instead of at once acceding to the strongly expressed desire of the *ex-officio* Matrons to maintain the previous constitution by making the Bye-laws constituting the Council and Executive Committee conform, as they formerly did), will be recognised by those who are truly interested in the consolidation of our Nurses' Association as a serious danger to the integrity of the Corporation.

Consequently, in Dr. Thorne's proposed list of the governing body of our Association for 1895-96 we find that the Navy and Indian Nursing Services are unrepresented. St. George's, St. Mary's and the Royal Free Hospitals are the sole representatives of the great Metropolitan Nursing Schools, and of the County Hospitals only one remains—the General Hospital, Nottingham.

We think, therefore, that the majority of the members of the Corporation will agree with their Nurse representatives on the Executive Committee in condemning in the most emphatic manner, a policy which, if continued, must inevitably destroy the prestige and retard the progress of our Association, just as it was beginning to effect such widespread benefits for the members of the Nursing profession and the public.

During the last few years the great principles which inspired the formation of a Union of Nurses have been gradually, yet surely, gaining acceptance. Extended and more efficient training and education, and more liberal domestic arrangements are being accorded to Nurses all over the United Kingdom. Nurse sweating is being recognised as unjustifiable and impolitic. The work in the abstract, if not quite in detail, of the Association, is inspiring our colleagues in the States, in Canada, in Holland, and elsewhere to co-operate for mutual support and progress. A feeling of *camaraderie* amongst Nurses has been growing up, and is reflected in the tone of the Nursing press of the world, and is breaking down the narrow exclusiveness of the "schools" in the desire to effect the welfare of the profes-

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