

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is cheering to find that you take a more hopeful view of the ultimate outcome of the present unsatisfactory condition of our Association than your correspondents, "A Member of no Importance," and "A Member of the Council."

May I remind your readers that the removal of the honoured names of the founders of the Royal British Nurses' Association from its governing body is not yet an accomplished fact, and that should this disgrace come upon us the blame will rest upon every individual member of the Association (who has an opportunity of knowing the truth) who does not protest against this injustice by altering the voting list sent to her. That this list should have been drawn up by the Hon. Medical Secretary, and presented to the Council without one word of explanation, striking as it does at the root of our Constitution, and issued to the members of the Corporation again without impressing upon them the contemplated change, so that many members may have already signed and returned their voting lists quite innocent that by so doing they are removing from all share in the management of the Association the women they most honour and respect, and to whom they owe the deepest debt of gratitude, is an act which I feel sure every member of the Association will join with me in condemning in the most emphatic terms.

But words are useless—let us *act*. Might I suggest that every member who has not yet returned her voting list to the office should write in the following names at the bottom of the suggested list of Matrons:—

Miss Louisa Hogg,
Miss Catherine Loch,
Miss Isla Stewart,
Miss G. Thorold,
Miss Gertrude Rogers, and
Mrs. Ethel G. Fenwick,

and let each member be careful to *date* and sign the list.

Upon referring to the *Nurses' Journal*, page 40, the Chairman, at the special Council Meeting of May 10th, is reported to have stated that to retain these ladies' names on the new Council list "would be a contravention of the Bye-laws." This may be so at the present moment, owing to the unbusiness-like manner in which they have been drawn, but what we members have got to do is to *alter the Bye-laws*, making them conform to the original Constitution, and not to sit down and calmly submit to the present chaotic wording of these laws. *The Charter does not restrict the number of ex-officio members*, therefore if it is the will of the members in a meeting of the Corporation that the honourable contract entered into with the *ex-officio* matrons be maintained, the ambiguity of the wording of the Bye-laws constituting the General Council must be made to conform with that constituting the Executive Committee. Feeling sure that the majority of my fellow members will be warmly in sympathy with this line of action,

I remain, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

E. MARGERY HOMERSHAM,
Member of the Council, R.B.N.A.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



OUR readers will observe that this week a discussion has been commenced by the members under the heading of the Royal British Nurses' Association. We desire it to be distinctly understood that this is an entirely open discussion and that all sides of the question will be given equal prominence. Much light may thus be thrown upon such an important matter as the revision of the constitution of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a step which is of vital importance to every member of the Corporation.

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THE monthly meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society was held on Tuesday last, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, when it was decided to consider applications for membership at the July meeting instead of waiting till October. The fact that every Nurse on the list was engaged encourages the Committee to increase the staff, preparatory to the holidays. Miss Farmer was elected to membership after the usual three months' term of probation. The resignation of Miss Marian G. Rolfe, owing to ill-health, was received by the Committee with sincere regret. The Annual Meeting will be held in July, at which it is hoped that as many of the members will be present as possible.

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WE are pleased to hear from numerous correspondents that the suggestion to form a lending library for Nurses in connection with the NURSING RECORD has met with so much favour amongst our readers. Miss Isla Stewart of St. Bartholomew's has kindly consented to give a brief sketch of the organisation of the Nurses' Library in connection with that Nursing School which has been so eminently successful, and has proved of so much pleasure to the members. We shall be glad to forward a card for the meeting on the 12th to any Nurse interested in the scheme.

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