

consequence, an appeal for funds had to be issued in May, 1894, then another appeal in less than six months, and in December last a bazaar for the same purpose had to be held. As a result of these frequent efforts about £1,000 was obtained, but still the expenditure continued to increase, and the whole of this amount has already been spent. The leading Nurses on the Association strongly objected to this large expenditure beyond the reliable income of the Association, and also to the unbusiness-like methods in which the other affairs of the Association were being conducted by the officials. Their protests were ignored, but they continued to object to the manner in which the Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Association were over-ridden by certain officials. A determined effort was then made to remove them from the governing body of the Association, upon which they had in 1888 been offered and had accepted *permanent* seats. These ladies naturally enough objected, after they had worked for seven years, in the face of incessant opposition, to be summarily removed from the position which the general body of members had originally requested them to take; but it was pointed out that the wording of the new Bye-laws, passed in 1893, rendered it necessary that these ladies should retire, like other Members, in rotation from the General Council. Many of the members, however, desiring to keep faith with these founders of the Association, demanded, in February last, in accordance with the Charter and Bye-laws, that a special General Meeting of the Corporation should be immediately convened, to so alter this particular Bye-law as to render its meaning identical with the original intention, and thus to retain permanently upon the General Council the original founders of the Association. That General Meeting was illegally refused; the members were illegally deprived of their right to alter the Bye-laws if they saw fit; many were, by the action of a small minority, compelled, sorely against their will, to break faith with the women whom they trusted and whom they desired should continue to represent them on the governing body of the Corporation. The Bye-laws not being altered, the necessity arose in July last for observing the Bye-laws as they stood, and so the founders of the Association were removed from the permanent seats which they had hitherto held in pursuance of the agreement entered into with them by the Association. In protest against the unconstitutional methods adopted, the ladies in question, who remained *ex-officio* Members of the Executive Committee, declined to take any further part in the conduct of the affairs of the Association, until those who had thus introduced discord

into the working of the Association had retired from any active part in its management. They have steadily maintained, throughout the painful circumstances of the past few months, their conviction that the sense of honour and the good faith of the great majority of the members of the Association would in time brush aside all the carefully manufactured misunderstandings, and would bring about renewed harmony and concord. And that hope seems now about to be fulfilled. It is believed that in future the Association will be able once more to move forward along the path of progress and reform which it has previously trodden so successfully.

As the representative organ of the Nursing profession, we have watched with much regret the proceedings of the last few months, but are hopeful that, even out of this apparent harm, good may come. Great movements are commencing in the Nursing world, and it is well that the Chartered Corporation should have discovered in whom it can place confidence, and who are steadfast and true in its service. It is but human to err, and those who never make mistakes rarely learn invaluable lessons. During the past year, many errors have been committed, but there is good reason to believe that much has also been learnt which will hereafter prove invaluable. There are, unhappily, several difficult legacies still to be arranged, but with mutual forbearance and goodwill these may, perhaps, be successfully settled.

There is only one other matter to which we need allude. Efforts have been made by an insignificant clique to sow dissension between the Medical and the Nurse members of the Corporation, but the good sense of both have caused these efforts to ignominiously fail; and speaking on behalf of Nurses, we feel certain that while on the one hand no honourable medical man would for a moment desire to prevent these women having their rightful influence and share in the government of a Nurses' Association, so, on the other hand, every trained Nurse would be deeply grieved if her Association were deprived of that measure of sympathy and support from medical men which it has in the past so happily secured.

It will be a matter of general satisfaction that the Association has determined to assume once more its rightful position in Nursing matters by re-commencing its Educational Lectures. Other Societies, which do not possess a tithe of the prestige or the influence of the Association, and which altogether lack its special qualifications for such work, carry it out with financial success. And, with more efficient management, the Association should, therefore, be able to secure at least an equal measure of prosperity.

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