

earthly doubt at all, that what advice he might have tendered to that meeting would have been carried out, and he felt that there was no danger at the time of that Nurse's name being struck off the Register. I have now laid before you, as briefly as I can, the chief points in this case, and it will be for those who have anything to say upon the matter to discuss it further.

The CHAIRMAN: I have had to interrupt the Honorary Secretary in the statement which he is making, which I will give him an opportunity of continuing later on, but Sir Russell Reynolds, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, has to leave shortly, and he desires to speak before doing so, and I am sure you will all give him an opportunity to do that. Before he speaks, I desire to read to you two letters which have been handed to me since Mr. Fardon began to speak. The first is dated from 5, Park Square West, Regent's Park, from Sir James Paget. [The Chairman read the letter, in which Sir James Paget explained his inability to be present, and added that, if he were able to attend, he would support the resolution of which notice had been given in the Agenda.] The other is from the Borough Hospital, Birkenhead. [The Chairman read the letter, which disapproved of what had been done, and in which the writer expressed the opinion that all the members ought to have been consulted. (Cries of "Hear, hear.")]

The CHAIRMAN: At any rate, all the members will be consulted to-day. I beg now to call on Sir Russell Reynolds to move the first resolution.

Sir JOHN RUSSELL REYNOLDS: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the resolution has been already before you, and has been read this afternoon by Mr. Fardon. I will not read it again; but I must say this, that I never rose with greater regret and more unmixed pain to move a resolution such as this one before me than I do to-day. (Hear.) And it is for this reason: not because I think it is unnecessary—(hear, hear); not because I think it is undesirable; but because I say it is both. I think that for an Institution like this, so young in its history and so successful apparently in its prospects, to have been brought to such a meeting as is assembled to-day is a matter of great distress. It is a matter of great distress certainly to me, and I think it must be to those who have its best interests at heart. (Hear, hear.) This is an institution which has for its object, in the first instance, as I understand it, the good of patients, and I think that all Nurses must agree with me that the first care that they have, as I am sure all doctors would agree, is the care of the patients (hear, hear, and applause); and the next thing they have to consider—I will not say is themselves, but, if they happen to be associated in an Institution or Corporation like this, it is the good of the Corporation (hear, hear, and loud applause), which I am quite sure they will agree with me, is of importance to them as well as to their own interests. I think that all these objects, by a *fracas* in an Institution of this kind, are damaged, and the value of the Institution is thrown back—for how long I cannot say. The confidence of patients in applying to this Institution for relief is broken, the Association itself is damaged, and the Nurses themselves are damaged, and, I think, irretrievably, by being mixed up with what seems to me almost ridiculous. (Hear, hear.)

SEVERAL MEMBERS: Exactly. (Laughter.)

Sir J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS: It is about something, and I have read the papers very carefully

through, that one cannot conceive to have been possible, except from people who must have been very small-minded and very poor in their regard for the Institution. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I do not believe that there could be any public Institution or Association of persons with one another for doing good to themselves and to others, or any club hardly, that would not pass over an act like the one which has been before us. It could not last for a year if persons, just because some little matter of detail was not observed, made it a matter of law. Just imagine a person elected to a club writing in a public journal about such a matter! Imagine a person being admitted into the Athæneum, and, because he did not get a notice, writing to the papers (laughter, and hear, hear) without consulting the Committee or the Club! I do not know what would become of society. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I think that we should be broken up into a kind of mixed set of small folks (laughter) who have forgotten what the object of the Institution to which they belong and to which they have been admitted was, and really what was in its interest, and thought only of themselves—the last, the lowest, and the most contemptible thing that a person can take into consideration. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Having said so much (I am afraid I must go in a moment or two), I will only say one thing more, and that is, that I do beseech those who have the interests of this Corporation at heart to forget all this—I was going to call it stupid affair—(Hear, hear, and applause). Forgive, if anybody has got anything to forgive, and let us go on to something better, higher, and nobler. (Loud applause.) It is really for the advantage of all those persons—I mean patients—for whom Nurses are instructed, and for the Association. This Corporation was really made in order to organise and utilise their powers in the greatest possible degree. Instead of doing that, if you are to have little squabbles of this sort, then all I can say is, that the utilities of the organisation are next to *nil*. You should, I think, all—and especially the Nurses here engaged—be most careful to be loyal, loyal to the Institution itself, loyal to yourselves—(hear, hear)—loyal to one another—(cries of "Hear, hear")—loyal to the highest interests of the patients who might possibly be committed to your care, and loyal to your Royal President. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, it is too well known to me, as I dare say it is to others, that we are threatened with grave danger in the future, and, if this country is to have its supply of Nurses, on which we pride ourselves, broken up into little factions by some such squabbles as these, then I think that the nation will not find the kind of help that it expects, and that it ought to expect, from that great body of women who have banded themselves together in various directions to help the sick and the suffering, and, it may be, to help our country in one of the greatest struggles that it has ever gone through. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: I will now call on Sir William Broadbent to second the resolution.

Sir WILLIAM BROADBENT: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am in the same position as the President of the College of Physicians—I have to leave here on business of the College, so that my remarks must necessarily be brief. The only object that I, and most of the physicians and surgeons whom I see around me can have, in attending this meeting, is the interests of the Nurses of this great Nursing Association, to which

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