

all of us in different degrees belong, and our object is to promote that cordial co-operation between medical men and Nurses which is so necessary for the well-being of patients. (Cries of "Hear, hear.") I fully share the feelings of pain which Sir Russell Reynolds has expressed in having to attend here to-day. The resolution which I have the honour to second, and which I second with all my heart, expresses the plain truth. In the abstract, no one could contend that the conduct of any member of an Association like this, in writing a letter complaining of the management of the Association to a public newspaper without previously communicating with the Executive, or taking the means open to her to obtain the redress of any grievance—no one will contend that that conduct was any other than factious and wrong. That it was foolish, also, has been distinctly shown by the President of the Royal College of Physicians. To my mind, the worst feature of the whole case is that it reveals the existence within the Association of some sort of faction. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Certainly, everybody cannot be working loyally for this Association, when proceedings such as have been recited by the Honorary Secretary have been possible; and, as has been hinted, and more than hinted, the Nurse, whose name has been forced into such an amount of prominence, is simply the instrument of some faction within the Association, the end of which, whether it is the object or not—the end of which can be nothing but the destruction of the Association as an Association for the public good, for the good of the Nurses, and for promoting co-operation between the medical profession and Nurses. (Hear, hear.) I have no time, Sir, to say more. I think I have said sufficient to express my view of the case.

The CHAIRMAN: I have one other letter to read, which has been handed to me whilst Sir Russell Reynolds was speaking.

[The Chairman then read a communication from Miss Mary Tydy, regretting her absence from the meeting, and recording her sympathy with and confidence in Her Royal Highness's Resolution.]

The CHAIRMAN: I shall be glad now to hear any observations that may arise with reference to the resolution, which has been proposed by Sir Russell Reynolds and seconded by Sir William Broadbent.

Dr. BIERNACKI: Am I in order in asking for a word of explanation from the Honorary Secretary with regard to one point in the explanation he gave? I should like to ask him if he means to infer or convey that the answer to Miss Barlow's letter contained the information which she required, or whether it was really a makeshift answer given at a moment's notice. (Cries of "Hear, hear.")

Mr. FARDON: I do not quite understand the question.

Dr. BIERNACKI: I wish to know whether the letter written by the solicitor on behalf of the Executive Committee, is supposed to have conveyed to Miss Barlow the answer yes or no to her letter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FARDON: There was no letter written by the Committee in answer to that. It was impossible for them to be got together to consider the question.

Dr. BIERNACKI: I said the letter written by the solicitor.

A VOICE: The Counsel.

Mr. FARDON: You mean the letter written by Mr. Muir Mackenzie?

Dr. BIERNACKI: Yes.

Mr. FARDON: It was the only answer that could be given.

Dr. BIERNACKI: Was it intended to be a sufficient and final answer?

Mr. FARDON: Certainly.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: I ask that that letter be read.

The CHAIRMAN: I confess myself I did not exactly apprehend the meaning of the question.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: It struck me as a most pertinent question. It is, did Miss Barlow's solicitors receive a reply yes or no, which they were entitled, as the judge said, to ask for.

The CHAIRMAN: Without reading any letters, I believe the Judge has said—and that ought to be a sufficient answer—that the answer was not categorically yes or no; but, with all due deference to the Judge, I would venture to submit that even had there been time to consider the matter, it would have been impossible to give a distinct and categorical answer before Miss Barlow had been heard. It might appear to them that she had been guilty of the most flagitious conduct which would have justified her removal; so that it would have been impossible to say yes or no before the case was tried. That would have been giving judgment before the trial took place. I am compelled in answer to a question to give a personal explanation. If Miss Barlow's supporters say that she entered upon that action believing that there was an intention to remove her name from the Register, I say they are saying what is incorrect; for in the Queen's Hall I myself assured Dr. Bedford Fenwick that there was no such intention, but that, if Miss Barlow expressed her regret, there would be an end of the matter. ("Oh!" and disturbance.) However, we will now proceed with the discussion.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: Sir, if you object to read the letter written by the Counsel, which has been asked for, I will read the Judge's remarks on that letter. His lordship said "They did not"—that is, the Committee—"answer the letter definitely. An answer was given, which, after having read it more than once this morning, I cannot discover is a definite answer to the question. I think the Plaintiff was entitled to know, so as to guide herself in her conduct by the answer which was given." (Applause.) That is the Judge's deliberate ruling. That [addressing the member who had asked the question], I think, is the answer to the question you asked?

The MEMBER: Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: That letter, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, was written by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, the barrister selected by this Council, and I think by Dr. Bedford Fenwick (no, no) originally, during the passing of the Charter.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK: No, by Dr. Bezly Thorne.

The CHAIRMAN: At any rate, he is an eminent Counsel, and was acting on his own responsibility as a Counsel in the matter.

Dr. BEZLY THORNE: May I say, in answer to an observation which has been made, that Mr. Muir Mackenzie was the selection of the President of the Association.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK: You first suggested his name.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: I rise to speak to the Resolution in the first place, and I have to express my

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