

When these proceedings at law were commenced, it became evident that they were vigorously supported by the same agency that had carried on the agitation against the Executive body, and it was felt that unless some strong measures were taken to obtain an authoritative expression of opinion from the general body of Nurse members of the Association, an entirely erroneous impression would be created as to the attitude of the Nurses generally towards the governing body of the Corporation, and especially to the Medical Members of it, which could not fail to be most injurious to the best interests of the Nurses themselves, and even threaten the very existence of the Association. The result of the meeting has been a most unmistakable expression of opinion on the part of the great majority of the Nurses in support of the course adopted by the Executive, and we earnestly hope that the discharge of this painful but imperative duty will bring about a restoration of order in the conduct of the business of the Corporation, and a right understanding of the purposes for which it was founded."

First, it must be made quite plain to the public that these statements have as usual been issued by the Journal Committee and the Editor—Miss Josephine de Pledge; and have never been submitted to, or authorised by, the Executive Committee. And we protest once more, as we have protested on previous occasions, against such irregular proceedings upon the part of eight members of the Association in thus arrogating to themselves the right to speak in the name and by the authority of the Royal British Nurses' Association. They are now continuing the persecution of a Nurse because she has dared to protect her professional reputation, in the High Court of Chancery, against the threat of the Honorary Officers of the Association to remove her name from the Register, without just cause.

The Executive Committee and its Officers are well aware that Sir John Russell Reynolds, late President of the Royal College of Physicians, was not a member of the Association at the time he proposed the defamatory resolution condemning Miss Barlow after she had been exonerated in the High Courts of Justice. They are aware that this proceeding was totally contrary to the Charter and Bye-Laws, and that in thus ignoring the legal provisions binding the Corporation they were treating the members with absolute contempt, and merely carrying out the policy of intimidation strongly condemned by Dr. Lovell Drage, and which all other honourable men and women will equally condemn.

The fact that at least thirty Nurses in the employment of one Hospital alone attended the Special General Meeting, having previously received orders to vote for the Resolution, is sufficient proof of the truth of Dr. Drage's indictment against the present policy of the clique to which he alludes; and it fully explains why the demand that the names and votes should be recorded was not acceded to.

One thing Nurses must not conclude is that the dozen medical men who have attempted to usurp absolute power in the Executive Committee represent the medical profession at large. In the near future, complete publicity will be given to various proceedings on the part of those persons by whom the Association is at present governed, and we are convinced that the medical profession will condemn these at least as strongly as the public will do.

## Training School Registries.\*

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By Training School Registries, I mean those Registries for Nurses—whether managed on the purely co-operative basis, or by School management alone—which have for their primary object the well-being and employment of the graduate Nurse in contradistinction to those Registries or Directories which make the necessities of the graduate Nurse a means for furnishing a lucrative business for some individual or society.

The former Registry extends its privileges equally to a limited number of duly qualified members, and at a nominal cost, the latter extends its membership indiscriminately, and in its efforts to obtain the largest monetary returns in membership fees, breaks down the barrier which should exist between the duly qualified Nurse, the partially qualified Nurse, and the aspirant who is not qualified at all.

It is not surprising that this system of registration should in time crowd out the better qualified Nurse from the General Directory, and we find now the best Nurses seeking for some other plan by which they may obtain recognition and employment. This is especially true in cities where the General Directory for Nurses has held sway from the beginning and where the School Registry has not yet been introduced.

The best physicians in these cities are already finding out that the General Directory, as now managed, is not to be depended upon for the best Nurses; and they too are dissatisfied, and would be willing to patronise another plan.

This brings us to the point of how best to establish a Registry for Nurses which shall limit the membership, protect the interests of the community for which it is organised; guarantee good Nurses to those who seek them, and represent to the public the school or schools from which its members graduate.

This close corporation protective Registry for Nurses may be organised in three ways:—first, as a Training School Registry, conducted as a part of the school management; second, as a Co-operative School Registry, managed by a committee composed of the Superintendent of the school and assistant officers and graduate Nurses; third, as the purely Co-operative Registry, composed of and managed by the graduates themselves.

In speaking of the first mentioned Registry, I immediately recall to mind two very well managed Registries, viz.:—The Bellevue School Registry and the Illinois School Registry. Both are controlled as a part of the school management. In the Bellevue Registry the Superintendent of the school is applied to direct when a Nurse is wanted. The Managers engage a resident messenger boy whose duty it is to notify the Nurses, wherever resident in the city, of calls as transmitted to them by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's office is also the Registry office and the managers hold themselves responsible for the efficient work and conduct of their graduate Nurses.

The Illinois Training School Registry is managed on the same principle, though it has become so large and its graduates are so numerous that an agent—one

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