

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

THE PROPOSED GENERAL COUNCIL LIST FOR 1896-97.



In our Report of the Meeting of the General Council of April 10th, we drew attention to the fact that Dr. Bedford Fenwick had objected to the proposed list for the new Council for various strong reasons, which he then set forth. In the first place, the Bye-law constituting the Council, Section E., No. 4, does not provide for the removal of medical men, and

the Sub-Committee named below, who are responsible for preparing the list, have acted in the most unauthorised manner, by removing from the list the names of gentlemen, many of whom have rendered the most valuable services to the Association. Anyone of these gentlemen could fairly complain of being summarily shuffled off the governing body of the Association by such presumptuous and entirely unauthorised action on the part of an official "ring." And we are given to understand that public objection will be taken to this proceeding. The 34 gentlemen whom it is proposed to remove are:—

Julius Althaus, M.D.	...	...	...	London.
Arthur Barker, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
C. G. Bond, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Leicester.
Charles Gage Brown, M.D., C.M.G.	...	...	...	London.
George Brown, M.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
F. W. Burton Fanning, L.R.C.P.	...	...	...	Norwich.
W. G. Cant, M.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Lincoln.
Edmund Carver, M.B.	...	...	...	Cambridge.
T. F. Chavasse, M.D.	...	...	...	Birmingham.
Henry Clutton, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
George Eady, M.D.	...	...	...	Enfield.
A. G. Foulerton, L.R.C.P.	...	...	...	London.
Arthur Foxwell, M.D.	...	...	...	Birmingham.
John H. Galton, M.D.	...	...	...	Norwood.
Lawrence Humphry, M.D.	...	...	...	Cambridge.
Percy Jalkins, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
Thomas Jones, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Manchester.
Reginald Jowers, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Brighton.
Edward Malins, M.D.	...	...	...	Birmingham.
Lewis Marshall, M.D.	...	...	...	Nottingham.
Stephen Moore, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
G. Howard Mummery, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
William Ogle, M.D.	...	...	...	London.
Herbert Page, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
Douglas Powell, M.D.	...	...	...	London.
Henry Power, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
Francis H. Preston, M.R.C.S.	...	...	...	London.
Sir W. O. Priestley, M.D.	...	...	...	London.
E. A. Rich, L.R.C.P.	...	...	...	Ryde.
Harrington Sainsbury, M.D.	...	...	...	London.
Sinclair Thompson, M.D.	...	...	...	S. Africa.
G. E. Wherry, F.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Cambridge.
Claud Wilson, M.D.	...	...	...	Tunbridge Wells.
Hugh Woods, M.D.	...	...	...	London.

In the proposed new list, 20 of these vacancies are filled by gentlemen resident in London, that is to say, important provincial towns cease to be represented on the Council; and the places of distinguished and old members of the Association are given to gentlemen, some of whom have only recently joined its ranks, and whose names are probably unknown outside their

family circles. This, of course, would be a most foolish and short-sighted policy, if there was any intention of maintaining the Association, as it was formerly, in a position of national importance.

MATRONS' LIST.

In the proposed list of Matrons we are faced with the very serious result, which was inevitable after the breach of faith with the *ex-officio* members of the Council, and the denial of the members' right to call a meeting last year to alter the Bye-law, Section E., No. 4, that, with the exception of Miss Thorold, of Middlesex Hospital, *there is not one Matron of a Metropolitan General Hospital, with a Medical School attached, on the proposed List of the Governing Body of the Royal British Nurses' Association.* It is impossible that Nurses certificated in the leading Training Schools of the Metropolis can consider it any honour to belong to an Association, the regulations of which disqualify their Matrons from taking part in its governing body.

We have analysed the names of the proposed provincial Matrons on the new list, and find that out of the 41 nominations only four who superintend County Hospitals have accepted nomination.

These remarkable facts are the inevitable outcome of the proceedings of the eight or ten gentlemen who have for the last two years controlled the working of the Association, and perhaps it will suffice to convince even them, of their complete failure. Being unable to persuade ladies holding distinguished positions in the Nursing world to join the Council under their management, they have been compelled to nominate for the vacancies several Nurses in charge of the Sanatoriums at Boys' Schools and of little Convalescent Homes; two who occupy the positions of Assistant Matrons, and are therefore not eligible for vacancies on the Matrons' list; and one lady who is not, and never has been, a Nurse, and who holds no Hospital appointment.

SISTERS' AND NURSES' LIST.

But as regards the proposed list of Sisters and Nurses, we feel sure that the large majority of the members will feel great indignation that the Sub-Committee which drew up this list—composed of the six hon. officers, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Mr. John Langton, Mr. Fardon, Miss Thorold, and Mrs. Dacre-Craven, to whom were added Dr. James Calvert and Miss Bramwell—should have attempted to thrust upon the Association so unjust a selection. We append the nominations below, showing that out of thirty vacancies, *thirteen* have been selected from the present staff of the Middlesex Hospital, and *six* more from that of the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary, leaving only eleven representatives for all the other Hospitals in the United Kingdom, and for the great body of Private and District Nurses! And when it is borne in mind that four Nurses on the Middlesex staff and two on the Chelsea Infirmary staff already have seats on the Council, this attempt to pack the Council by securing *twenty-five* seats—or just one quarter of the whole list—to these two comparatively unimportant Institutions, is a piece of gross jobbery which we feel confident that the authorities of those Institutions will by no means approve. To show how gross the attempt is, we may say that by a fair division of representatives, the Middlesex Hospital should have *two* representatives, and the Chelsea Infirmary, perhaps, *one*. We believe that there are many honourable men and

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