

Next week we hope to give a detailed description of the whole Exhibition, feeling sure that there is much to be learned by all Nurses in the comparison of the practical methods which we use in our work of attendance upon the sick and needy.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THOSE Nurses who remember the active part taken by Dr. Bedford Fenwick in the initiation and working of the Association for the first six years of its existence; the continuous and increasing success which it achieved during those years, culminating in the grant of the Royal Charter; the reason why he resigned the Treasurership, predicting that the Association could not defray the expenses in which it was being involved by one of its officers; the constant appeals for money which have since been made; and the well-known fact that the Association is now burdened with debt; those who remember these things will be pleased to learn that the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association have elected Dr. Bedford Fenwick as their President, and that he has consented to take the *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which is provided under the Bye-laws for the President of that important medical Society. It is, at least, of good omen for the Association that one who so greatly conduced to its previous success should at the present most critical period of its career be willing to take part again in its management.

The last number of the *Nurses' Journal* contains a lengthy letter from Mr. R. Brudenell-Carter, who has paid us the high compliment of abusing us personally concerning our recent remarks on the methods by which the Society of Chartered Nurses was started. We quite understand Mr. Carter's very serious objections to having these most reprehensible methods exposed in the public press. We cannot spare space in this journal to deal with Mr. Carter, but will answer him in the next issue of the "official organ" of our Association. We must, however, take exception at once to his attempt to take credit unto himself for the formation of Co-operative Societies for Private Nurses. We must remind him that in the pamphlet which he was good enough to write

in 1888, he merely embodied the schemes suggested by the Founders of the Association in 1887—only one of which—the Royal Charter—has been so far carried out by the Association. Of the other objects, some, such as the Home of Rest and Co-operative Societies, have already been, and others are about to be, carried out by outside bodies, owing to the lamentable failure of the present managers of the Association to fulfil the work which it originally undertook to do. In stating that the final meeting—by no means the preliminary meeting—to arrange the formation of the Registered Nurses' Society, was held at his house, Mr. Carter merely omits to state the significant fact that he consented to have this meeting, at our personal request. He also has forgotten other salient facts which we hope in due course to recall to his memory.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL LIST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Some weeks since, I received a letter from the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, asking if I would allow my name to be proposed for the General Council. I wrote to ask if the definite promise given to us last year, that the names of the *ex-officio* members, and that of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, were to be replaced on the new Council? Upon receiving a reply that this had not been done, I refused to act on the Council. I may also add that I have crossed off the names of the thirteen candidates from the Middlesex Hospital, as also those of the five from the Chelsea Infirmary, from my ballot paper; not from any want of courtesy to those Institutions, but simply that I object to having the meetings packed by so many Nurses from one Hospital, thereby giving them such a predominating vote upon any serious matter affecting our Association.

Believe me,

Dear Madam,

Yours truly,

C. M. BEACHCROFT,

Matron and Superintendent of Nursing,
Lincoln County Hospital.

May 24th, 1896.

[The packing of the General Council, by the Honorary Officers, by Nurses in the Institutions over which they preside, means depriving the members at large of liberty of speech, and due control of the affairs of their Association, and we feel sure this great injustice will not be permitted without a strong protest upon the part of members holding responsible positions in the Nursing profession.—EDITOR.]

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