

cision are taking upon themselves a very grave and serious responsibility.

Every true friend of the Royal British Nurses' Association must deplore the course of procedure which has been adopted throughout this case.

The Corporation should have been consulted before, or at any rate during, the recent legal proceedings. It is impossible to believe that the Corporation will now place itself in so untenable a position as to pass a Resolution which is nothing more or less than an attempt to over-ride the decision given in favour of Miss Barlow in the High Court of Chancery. In this number, we have postponed the pub-

lication of much of our ordinary matter, and have endeavoured, to some extent, to correct the injustice involved in the broadcast circulation of the Resolution to which we allude, and its practical condemnation of the Nurse, unheard. We call upon every Nurse member of the Association, who can possibly do so, to attend the meeting next Tuesday afternoon, and to remember the responsibility which rests upon her to vote according to truth and justice, to uphold our English rights of free speech and liberty of conscience, and to support the authority of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice.

### Miss Barlow's Case.

#### To the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I greatly regret to find it necessary in self-defence to bring the following facts directly to your notice.

I became a member of the Corporation on June 7th, 1895. At that time strenuous efforts were being made to turn certain ladies, who had been chiefly instrumental in founding the Association, off the General Council upon which they had been promised permanent seats. Nurse members had, in accordance with the Charter and Bye-Laws, applied for a Special General Meeting of the Corporation, in order to alter the Bye-Laws and thus prevent this action being taken. That Meeting had been illegally "postponed," a few persons on the Executive Committee thus denying the great body of members a privilege and legal right conferred upon them by Her Majesty the Queen in Council. To evince their feeling on the matter, in a strictly constitutional manner, many of the members determined to vote, on the Ballot List for the General Council, for the retention of the Matrons whom it was proposed to remove. By the Bye-Laws, it is the duty of the Executive Committee to cause a Voting Paper to be sent to every Member of the Corporation. It was therefore my legal right to receive one, on my election to membership. No voting paper was sent to me, and I heard of many other older members who had not received theirs, and great indignation was expressed by them at being once more deprived of their legal rights, and once more prevented from exercising the privileges conferred upon them by the Charter. What followed is sufficiently explained in the accompanying letter.

*To the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association.*

12, HOLLES STREET, LONDON, W.  
December 5th, 1895.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I respectfully ask your attention, in justice to myself, and to the whole body of Registered Nurses, to the principal facts connected with the recent action of "Barlow v. Thorne and others," in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice.

(1) On June 7th, 1895, I was duly elected a member of the Association. It then became, at once, the duty of the officials of the Corporation, in accordance with the Bye-laws, to send me a voting paper for the election of the General Council. They neglected to fulfil that duty, not only in my own case, but in the cases

also of a number of other old, as well as new, members of the Association—whose names I can give if required—thus depriving us of a legal right and privilege.

(2) On June 12th, 1895, I called at the offices of the Association, and asked for my voting paper. The Secretary refused to give it to me. I therefore, at once, made the following complaint to a public newspaper.

(No. 1.)

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I think under the present circumstances that it is right to make public the fact that although I am a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I have not yet received my Journal and Voting List from the office, for the General Council; and as my fellow members received their's five weeks ago, and the lists have soon to be returned, I make

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