

the fact public, because other new members of the Association may suffer from the same mismanagement; and as I am anxious to replace the names of the *ex-officio* Matrons on the list, I made a personal application at the office for my Voting Paper. If other members have not yet received either the Journal or their Voting Paper, they should apply for them at once to Miss Alice Ravenhill, Secretary, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W.

I am, yours, &c.,  
 GEORGINA E. BARLOW, M.R.B.N.A.

June 8th, 1895.\*

(3) On the 13th of June, *after the NURSING RECORD containing the above letter had been printed and published*, I received a letter from the Secretary stating that she had been directed by the Honorary Officers to forward me my voting paper—an admission that she had erred in previously withholding it from me.

(4) I next received a threatening letter, dated June 15th, from Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, on behalf of Miss Alice Ravenhill. I instructed my Solicitors to defend any action which Miss Ravenhill might bring against me, and have not since heard anything further of the matter. I submit that it is an innovation which cannot be sanctioned, that the paid official of a Corporation should threaten any of its members for complaining of mismanagement of its affairs.

(5) The Secretary next drew the attention of the Executive Committee to my letter, at a special meeting held for the purpose, on June 25th. The following resolution was then proposed by Sir James Crichton Browne, seconded by Mr. Brudenell Carter, and agreed to (the italics are mine)—

“That the Honorary Officers write to Miss Georgina E. Barlow requesting her TO SHOW GOOD REASON WHY SHE WROTE SUCH A LETTER AND REQUIRING AN AMPLE APOLOGY FOR THE SAME, *or otherwise*, in accordance with Bye-law—Section G. 2—she would be summoned to appear before a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee, who have power to direct that the name of a Nurse be erased from the Register if, after full inquiry, she be considered unworthy to remain thereon.”

The Committee, therefore, on the *ex parte* statements of the Secretary, decided that I should be called upon to explain and amply apologise for having merely exercised my indisputable right to make a public complaint if I considered myself unjustly treated. I respectfully submit that, if I had given “good reason” for my letter—as I certainly could have done—

no “apology” of any sort from me would have been necessary. That the Committee demanded an “ample apology” in the same breath that they requested an explanation, indicates that they had prejudged my case before they had heard me in my own defence. Such a proceeding on the part of a body entrusted by Her Majesty’s Privy Council with judicial functions, needs no comment.

(6) If I had been made acquainted with this Resolution, the facts which I possessed, showing that my charge of mismanagement was well founded, were so irrefutable, that I would at once gladly have complied with the request for an explanation. But this opportunity of self-defence was denied to me because the aforesaid Resolution *was entirely kept from my knowledge*. Instead of informing me of its terms, as directed by the Executive Committee, the Honorary Officers, Dr. William Bezly Thorne, Dr. James Calvert, and Mrs. Dacre Craven sent me the following letter (the italics are mine, in order to emphasize its inaccuracy):—

(No. 2.)

17, Old Cavendish Street, W.  
 June 28th, 1895.

MADAM,—The Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses’ Association having taken into consideration the letter which appeared over your signature in the NURSING RECORD of the 15th inst., *have instructed us to inform you that they have decided to proceed against you in relation thereto in accordance with the powers conferred upon them in the following terms:—*

“The Executive Committee shall have the power to direct that the name of any Nurse who shall after full inquiry appear to a majority of two-thirds of a meeting of the Committee unworthy to remain thereon, be erased from the list. But no name shall be erased for this cause except by order of a meeting specially summoned to consider the matter, and at this meeting fifteen shall be the necessary quorum. Provided always, that any Nurse whose name it is proposed to remove shall have the right to appear in person or by proxy to show cause why such erasure should not be made, and shall moreover have the right to demand that before her name is erased the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the General Council whose decision shall be final.”

We are further instructed to state that the Executive Committee will be prepared to receive at their next meeting, which will be held on Friday, July 5th, at the above address, at 4.30 p.m., any oral or written statement which you may desire to offer.

We are, Madam,  
 Yours faithfully,  
 FLORENCE S. CRAVEN,  
 Nurse Hon. Secretary.  
 W. BEZLY THORNE,  
 Medical Hon. Secretary.  
 JAMES CALVERT,  
 Hon. Treasurer.

Miss Georgina E. Barlow.

\* (This date was a printer’s error, noted and corrected in the next issue of the NURSING RECORD (p. 452), as follows: “By a printer’s error the date of a communication printed in our last issue, viz., June 8th, 1895, was transposed and attached to another communication written on the 12th inst.”)

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