



Letters to the Editor.

Notes, Queries, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be obliged if you will insert the enclosed correspondence in the next issue of the NURSING RECORD.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BREAY, M.R.B.N.A.

Inglewood, Fleet, Hants.,
August 24th, 1896.

[COPY].

Royal British Nurses' Association,
17, Old Cavendish Street,
Oxford Street, London, W.,
August 20th, 1896.

MADAM,—With reference to the ruling of the Chairman as to your resolution at the Annual Meeting, we were verbally informed by the officials at Vere Street "that the letter enclosing the resolution was not a registered letter." We have, however, communicated further with the Post Office Authorities on the matter, and beg to enclose you a copy of the reply received from them, by which you will see how the error arose.

I am, Madam, faithfully yours,

ALICE RAVENHILL,
Secretary of the Corporation.
Per E. G.

Miss M. Breay,
Inglewood, Fleet, Hants.

[COPY].

Registered No., 284,820.
General Post Office, London,
August 15th, 1896.

MADAM,—With reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I am desired to inform you that the reply sent to Miss Breay, of which you enclosed a copy, relative to the envelope which is returned herewith, was quite correct.

The letter in question was both registered and sent as an express letter, as indeed is shown by the counterfoil of the receipt which you signed, but the officer who accepted the letter at the Vere Street Post Office unfortunately omitted, through an oversight, to mark the cover with blue lines in the usual manner, an omission which led to the wrong information subsequently given to you verbally at that office.

Due notice has been taken of the irregularity,

which is regretted, as also is the unnecessary trouble which has been occasioned to you in the matter.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
T. SWAINSON.

Miss E. G. E. Guiseppi.

[COPY].

Inglewood, Fleet, Hants.
August 21st, 1896.

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated August 20th. As you had yourself signed for the receipt of a registered letter, I fail to understand why any verbal information from Vere Street was necessary.

I may further point out that had you mentioned in acknowledging the receipt of the letter that in your opinion I had failed to comply with the Bye-law governing the proposal of a Resolution at the Annual Meeting, I should still have had time (if I had been unable to convince you that the letter was registered), to send another registered letter to the Office before 4 o'clock on July 1st.

I am, Madam,

Faithfully yours,
MARGARET BREAY.

Miss E. G. E. Guiseppi.

[As we are informed that Miss Breay's solicitors have commenced legal proceedings against Sir James Crichton Browne, in reference to this matter, we are unable to make any further comments, and deem it better to publish no further letters on this subject until the action has been tried. We understand—and all who know Miss Breay will feel sure of the fact—that she is taking these steps with the greatest reluctance and regret, and solely in order to obtain from a Court of Law a decision as to whether the privileges and rights conferred upon the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association by Her Majesty the Queen in Council can be claimed by the members or not.—ED.]

THE GENERAL COUNCIL LIST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am obliged to Miss Child for her reply to my question in your issue of the 8th inst., and am not surprised to hear that she has resigned her seat on the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association before the expiration of the three years' term of office, and I am specially grateful for her courtesy in replying, because it emphasises one of the causes of complaint which the members of the Association have concerning the manner in which the Council List is now manipulated. It is simply a farce pretending that we have any voice in the election of that body; what happens is this, a select few of the Executive Committee apparently meet together and remove such names as they choose, substituting other names they choose. This list, without explanations of any sort as to which Institutions, Doctors, Matrons, or Nurses belong, is issued for signature to the mass of members; the average Nurse either signs and returns the ballot paper to the office without enquiring, or puts it with the *Nurses' Journal* into the waste-paper basket. A couple of hundred members—possessed by a sense of responsibility—make enquiries, find the list absolutely unjust and unrepresentative, alter it, and return it to

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