

rights, but to prove whether the bye-laws and the Charter should be observed or not. She remembered what took place at the meeting. She did not remember Sir James Crichton-Browne saying that he was quite impartial, and that he had not heard of the resolution before to-day. If he said so she would not like to doubt that it was true.

Mr. Commissioner KERR: What made the man make the objection? It was on the agenda, and so it might have been discussed. It would have cured all irregularity.

Mr. SCARLETT: Quite so.

Miss BREAY continued: She was seated near to Dr. Bedford Fenwick and heard him say that as the Chairman had ruled the resolution could not be discussed, he thought it would be better to bow to his ruling. She acquiesced in that. She had prepared a speech to deliver, and written it out. The speech would have kept; if there had been another meeting it would not have died. Her grievance was that she was not allowed to propose her resolution; that she had legally performed all her duties according to the bye-laws; that she had a right to be heard and was denied that right. She had not been to the Executive Committee, but she knew the Executive Committee was movable, and she thought that a certain number of members retired each year. The only Committee that it was possible for her to censure was the present one; some members were on at present who had been on in the past. It was the Executive Committee as a body, not any particular member, that she desired to censure. She condemned the management of the finances. The report of the Treasurer was adopted; she could not remember if it was adopted unanimously; she did not say anything against it, because she was going to speak on the subject in reference to her resolution. The Medical Secretary's report was read, and Dr. Fenwick moved that it should not be adopted. She voted against it. Her views were perhaps rather in the minority at the meeting. She had hoped that her resolution would be carried, but she did not think, from what she saw of the meeting, that it would have been carried.

Re-examined by Mr. SCARLETT: She was denied the opportunity of trying whether her resolution would have been adopted or not. Mr. Scarlett read the terms of her resolution, and Mr. Muir Mackenzie objected to any questions upon it.

Mr. Commissioner KERR: One thing that does surprise me is this, that when a member of the Committee is attacked, instead of seeking and embracing an opportunity to answer those attacks, he, as it were, stamps it out on the point of order.

Mr. SCARLETT: If it had been the only matter we should have overlooked it, but it is only part of a long course of similar treatment.

Miss BREAY continuing: Of course she bowed to the ruling of the chair; she had no opportunity of doing anything else; she had been an elected member of the General Council.

Dr. HUGH WOODS, sworn, and examined by Mr. SCARLETT, said that he lived in Archway Road, Highgate; that he was a doctor of medicine, and had been a Member of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association; he had now been removed from the Council. He was present in January, 1896, when Sir James Crichton-Browne presided at a meeting of the General Council. The Executive Committee reported that a Nurse had brought an action against the Corporation.

Mr. MUIR MACKENZIE objected to this evidence.

Mr. SCARLETT said that he desired to prove the previous proceedings of Sir James Crichton-Browne, and that on a previous occasion Sir James Crichton-Browne took just the same course he had taken with Miss Breay, and would not allow any discussion.

Mr. Commissioner KERR disallowed the evidence, and said: I think it is a most unfortunate thing myself that this action has gone on.

Mr. SCARLETT: So I said at the very commencement.

Mr. Commissioner KERR: It is most unfortunate, I cannot help thinking that. For a public man to draw a distinction between a registered letter and an express letter which has been registered is something incomprehensible.

Mr. SCARLETT: I am glad to hear your Honour say so, because that is exactly my feeling, and I told my friend before I came into court that it was with the greatest reluctance that I came forward and put the case before the public. (To the witness): I am ruled out, and, like Miss Breay, I bow to the ruling.

Dr. GEORGE BROWN (sworn, and examined by Mr. SCARLETT), stated that he was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was a member of the General Council of the Royal Nurses' Association. The Executive Committee had not suggested his name for re-election. The Executive Committee seemed to nominate whom they pleased for election upon the governing body of the Association. He was not a *persona grata*—that was why he was not re-elected. He was present at the general meeting in July that was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He saw the certificate of registration handed to the chairman, and heard him tell the meeting that it was not a certificate of a registered letter.

Mr. Commissioner KERR again asked for the by-law for the Association to be read, and this was done. The envelope and the certificate of registration were handed to the jury.

Dr. BROWN stated that he considered the objection of the Chairman was a quibble.

Cross-examined by Mr. MUIR MACKENZIE: He heard what the Chairman said. The report of the proceedings read to him by Mr. Muir Mackenzie was substantially accurate to the best of his memory. The Chairman had a very ready reply when Mr. Fardon asked whether it was in order to consider the resolution. It appeared to him that this proceeding had been pre-arranged; the whole thing was so sweetly and smoothly worked that it conveyed the impression to his mind that Mr. Fardon and Sir James Crichton-Browne had pre-arranged it. He did not hear Sir James say that he "had not heard of the resolution till to-day." In the ordinary course of proceeding Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, he believed, would have presided at the meeting. He did not suggest that the Executive Committee had placed the resolution on the agenda paper in order that it might be got rid of, but he thought that some little meeting had been held before the meeting to see what they should do with regard to the resolution. Mr. Fardon sat next the Chairman. He thought it only natural that the officials should have discussed before the meeting the course of procedure. He was well accustomed to public meetings and knew this was always done. He did not suggest that the action of the Executive Committee was not *bonâ fide*. He thought that the Executive Committee should have been most anxious to meet the vote of censure upon them.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)