

with Miss Breay's letter. Simply for that reason. The receipt was handed to him by Miss Breay. He did not think it was not a true certificate. He thought Miss Breay had made some mistake. He did not know if it was a certificate of registration of this letter. There might have been half a dozen letters; he could not answer otherwise. As the envelope did not bear the ordinary signs he could not go beyond that. Miss Breay did say openly at the meeting, and to him, that the receipt *was* the certificate of registration of this particular letter. He saw that there had been some mistake or blunder, as there subsequently proved there had been, because the three or four marks on the envelope were not there. He did not doubt Miss Breay's word. He believed she was labouring under some mistake or misapprehension. She might have registered several letters that day.

Mr. SCARLETT: What? Several letters that day to the "Secretary of the British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street"?

Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE: I only saw that there had been some grave blunder or mistake.

Mr. SCARLETT: Do you seriously mean to say that you believe that this lady had got a number of registered receipts for registered letters to the Secretary of the Association on June 30th, and that she was mistaken in thinking that she had them?

Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE: I formed no theory beyond this, that there had been some grave mistake, and that this letter was not registered.

Cross-examination continued: He had no doubt every Chairman was subject to complaints as to his partiality and conduct in the Chair. He had been repeatedly congratulated for his impartiality and fairness by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who proposed him as Vice-Chairman, but who had apparently changed his views about this. He was only one of three Vice-Chairmen. He only occasionally took the Chair. He was in the Chair at the Executive Committee when a requisition came in from sixty-nine Nurses, requesting a Special Meeting of the Corporation to be held, so as to alter the bye-laws. That was in March, 1895. He could not remember the details. He felt sure that on that occasion he acted by the advice of the Solicitor of the Association, who was sitting on his left hand. He did remember something about it. The Solicitor was Mr. Randolph. He asked the Solicitor whether the word "may" in the bye-laws was to be read "must." The bye-law says that on a requisition of fifty members a meeting "may" be called. He did not say that as "may" was not "must," the meeting should not be called; but he pointed out that, under the circumstances, it was not essential that the meeting should be called; and, if here collected rightly, the ladies present, except Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, acquiesced in the meeting being postponed. He had nothing to do in getting opinions from Counsel on the subject of turning the Matrons off the General Council. Sir Richard Webster did advise the Committee to take steps to remove an ambiguity in the bye-laws. A Committee was sitting at the present time to consider the bye-laws; they were appointed about twelve months ago. He had not attended any meetings of the Committee. He was a member of the Committee. He came all the way from Scotland to attend the Annual Meeting, at the special request of Her Royal Highness. He did not know why Her Royal Highness invited him. The other Vice-Chairmen were

Miss Thorold and Mr. Pickering Pick; they were both at the meeting, and might either of them have taken the Chair; but he came all the way from Scotland to do so. He had often registered letters himself. He could not say whether the form produced by Miss Breay was the ordinary form or not. He knew what express delivery was—that it was a recent institution, and it did not exist when the Charter was given. It simply meant that letters were taken direct instead of going through the ordinary order of post. He had seen Miss Guiseppi, and she was in Court. He saw her before the meeting. She did not tell him she had signed a receipt for the letter. He did not ask her if she had signed a receipt. She told him it was not a registered letter. He was satisfied with that. He did not ask her any other question, nor about signing a receipt. At the time he decided the question Miss Guiseppi was in the room. When he got Miss Breay's certificate he did not turn to Miss Guiseppi and ask if she had signed a receipt. He could not get beyond the fact that the letter had no marks upon it. He had nothing to do with Miss Barlow's case—nothing whatever. He was present at one meeting about it, but it was too long ago to remember what took place. He was present at one meeting when the matter was discussed; he did not recollect what took place at that meeting. It was possible he proposed the Resolution as stated on the minutes, and the Judge thoroughly approved of his Resolution. He believed that one of the officials went a step further than the resolution; but the Judge expressed his regret that he had to give costs to Miss Barlow. They had to come out of the pockets of the Nurses, and embarrassed the finances. He could not say how much, but a large sum.

Re-examined by Mr. MUIR MACKENZIE: The Committee was appointed to revise the bye-laws on March 21st, 1895. When this matter was raised concerning a General Meeting in May, 1895, he explained in detail that such a meeting "had not been refused but merely postponed." The certificate of posting handed up to him had written upon it—"Express"—in pencil.

Mr. Commissioner KERR: Mr. Muir Mackenzie, Sir James Crichton-Browne has explained that he did not see the blue marks on the envelope, and he jumped to the conclusion that it was not a registered letter. You and I know that the blue marks and the "R" are merely evidence of registration, but that the registration is a distinct act that is done at the Post Office. You say that he jumped at that conclusion with perfect honesty. That is a matter for the jury.

Mr. JOHN LANGTON, sworn and examined by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, stated that he was the Honorary Treasurer of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a member of all Committees. He attended the Annual Meeting on July 22nd, and read his financial statement, which was adopted. It was his proposal that Miss Breay's resolution should be placed on the agenda; and, so far as he knew, none of the members of the Executive Committee were anxious that her resolution should be suppressed. He saw Sir James Crichton-Browne before the meeting. Mr. Fardoe was not with him. He discussed the question of the resolution with him. He said: "There is a resolution sent in by Miss Breay, but it is not quite certain whether it is legally in order"; and he urged Sir James Crichton-Browne that he should allow it to be discussed, and he said, "If I can I will." He

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