

A Hospital Nurse's Dedication.

O LORD my God, this work I undertake
 Alone in Thy great Name, and for Thy sake ;
 In minist'ring to suff'ring I would learn
 The sympathy that in Thy Heart did burn
 For those who, toiling on Life's weary way,
 Unto diseases divers were a prey.
 Take then mine eyes, and teach them to perceive
 The ablest way each poor one to relieve ;
 Guide Thou my hands, that e'en their touch may prove
 The gentleness and aptness born of Love.
 Bless Thou my feet, and while they softly tread,
 May faces smile from many a sufferer's bed.
 Take too, my lips, O God ; guide Thou my tongue ;
 Give me a word in season for each one :
 Clothe me with patient strength all tasks to bear ;
 Crown me with Hope and Love, which know no fear,
 And Faith, that, coming face to face with Death,
 Shall e'en inspire with joy the dying breath.
 All through the arduous day my actions guide,
 Or 'mid the lone night-watch be by my side ;
 And when, worn out with toil I go to rest,
 Send sleep, and come in dreams to be my guest ;
 So shall I wake refresh'd with strength to pray ;
 Work in me, *through* me, *with* me, Lord this day.

ETHEL M. ROSHER.

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



A SPECIAL Meeting of the General Council, convened by H.R.H. the President, was held at the Offices of the Association on Friday, the 23rd October, 1896, at 4.30 p.m. Mr. Pearce Gould, F.R.C.S., stated that he had been requested by Her Royal Highness to take the Chair. He proceeded to explain that a question had been raised as to the regularity of the proceedings at the Council Meeting on the 16th inst. ; it having been pointed out that the Charter required Vice-Chairmen and other Honorary Officers to be nominated by the Executive Committee before being elected by the General Council ; and it was not altogether certain that these officers had been duly nominated. In order to prevent any further question being raised as to the legality of the election of the Hon. Officers, a special Meeting of the Executive Committee had just been held by command of Her Royal Highness the President, and the Committee had passed a Resolution, nominating to the Council for re-election, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Pick, and Miss Thorold as Vice-Chairmen ; Mr. Langton as Honorary Treasurer ; and Mr. Fardon and Mrs. Dacre Craven as Honorary Secretaries. He therefore formally proposed the election of these Officers from the Chair. The Motion was seconded by Miss de Pledge.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick said that as he had called attention to the irregularity of the proceedings of the

Council last week, he must congratulate the Executive Committee upon recognising their error and taking immediate steps to correct it. He hoped that the lesson would not be lost upon the Council, and that they would remember in future that the Association was incorporated by a Royal Charter, and possessed Bye-laws which had been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Privy Council. If, therefore, the Council acted in any matter, contrary to the Charter or to the Bye-laws, they were committing an illegal act, which he for one would not sanction without a protest. It was quite immaterial to him that on the last occasion he had apparently stood alone, because the Council, by its presence and its proceedings that day, were proving that he was in the right, and that they had been in the wrong. It was a bad beginning for the new Council. He earnestly hoped that the Council would not permit itself to be led again into such an indefensible position as they had taken up last week. He had only to add that he had been asked why he did not correct the mistake of the officials in omitting to propose the nomination of the Honorary Officers at the Executive Committee Meeting. To that he must make the simple answer that he did not notice the omission in question until the Meeting was over ; but that, if he had done so, it was doubtful if he would have been in order in correcting the careless neglect of the officials. Because, on referring to his Agenda paper of the Executive Committee Meeting, he found that the nomination of the Honorary Officers had not been placed there as part of the business to be transacted. So it would have been out of order to have transacted that business. As a matter of fact, the minutes of the Meeting proved that the business was not transacted, that the oversight, the consequent irregularity of the proceedings last week, and the necessity for this Special Meeting to correct that irregularity, was due to the neglect or ignorance of the officials. Finally he entered a formal protest against the re-election of a gentleman who had been found by a jury of his countrymen to have acted in his position of Chairman of a Meeting of the Association, in a malicious and wrongful manner against a member of the Association.

Miss Mary Burr said that, as one of the few independent Nurses upon the Council, she also desired, on behalf of other members, who felt, with herself, to strongly protest against the re-election of Sir James Crichton-Browne to the position of Vice-Chairman ; and, indeed, she could not understand how, under the circumstances, the Council could take such a step as to re-elect him.

The Chairman said he thought it was his duty to read two letters which had been, with three others, read at the Executive Committee, and which the writers asked should be read to the General Council. The writers protested strongly against the re-election of Sir James Crichton-Browne.

The names of the Honorary Officers proposed for re-election were put separately to the Meeting, and upon Sir James Crichton-Browne's name being proposed, four members voted against it, but a considerable number in favour of it, and it was therefore carried.

The other officers were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Dr. Fenwick, terminated the proceedings.

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