

vestige of respect for those who encourage us to defy the first principles of honour—to say nothing of order? It is incumbent upon those members who repudiate this disgraceful example to do so with all the publicity in their power. I left the room burning with indignation at the public disgrace brought upon us as a body by this new packed Council—but it cannot be that we old members shall submit to this last outrage without a protest. The public and the Law are on the side of justice and honour—as the result of Miss Breay's action proves—and a strong protest in the Press, exposing the proceedings of Friday's meeting, is the course we ought to take when the case of Breay *versus* Browne is no longer *sub judice*.

Yours ever gratefully,
A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

[We thank those of our readers who have written to us, naturally indignant at the unconstitutional conduct of the members of the General Council. Some of these letters must be held over for a time until the Appeal Court has given its decision.—ED.]

THE REGISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—May I be allowed to answer "M.R.B.N.A.'s" letter of October 31st, *re* the Register. Having passed the L.O.S. last July, I applied to the Association with a view to having this qualification added to the Register. I received an answer to the effect that the matter would be laid before the next meeting; with the result that I was requested to send my certificate, so that a copy of it might be taken, and so added to the Register for 1897. I was also told that the only addition allowed was in the case of the L.O.S. diploma. Therefore "M.R.B.N.A.'s" "supposition, that the Association *aims* at fossilisation," is quite incorrect, and her suggestion for housing the Register at the British Museum need not be taken advantage of, at all events this time."

I remain, Yours faithfully,
FAIR PLAY.

[It is only fair play to "M.R.B.N.A." to point out that "Fair Play" has evidently misunderstood the points of her letter.—ED.]

PROGRESS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—My letter has been so picked to pieces, turned and returned, that I hardly know who to answer, what attacks to parry, and which arguments to take up. I do not wish to argue for the sake of argument—the question is too serious a one—but I must maintain my stand, and repeat in other words that the main reason for the "non-success" shall we call it this time, is its very inherent weakness. In this, that three years' training, unconditionally of class, age, or Training School does not constitute a "fully trained Nurse," and that therefore the Royal British Nurses' Association has failed in protecting either the public or the doctors from untrained Nurses. And I wished to prove that, considering the different classes of Nurses, and the vast difference of experience to be acquired in one of the large London Hospitals, and a Provincial one containing 40 beds, there ought to be two standards or two curriculums. I do not here wish to discuss the different merits between *ladies*, *ladies*, and gentlewomen, because we all have our own feelings on the subject. But, if I remember right, I

spoke of the *educated* and the *uneducated*, and even then, I did not shut the door against the latter, let them come up for the higher examination, and rise if they choose. There are different degrees and different exams. in other professions, open to all. If a man has the capacity and means to enter as a barrister-at-law, other men do not call out to him "Fie for shame, what a snob you are, just because you are endowed with brains *re* University education—money, you walk over our heads, and leave us to do all the drudgery of a solicitor's work." Talking of the Professions brings us to the matter of education, study or training. It is true that a certain number of years is allotted and compulsory in men's professions, but then their studies are most minutely and systematically arranged, and again they have their *exams*, whereas, in our case, all we have to do is to hold a three-years' certificate from the Matron of a Hospital which contains 40 beds! Naturally, we, who have had greater advantages first by *birthright*, so to speak, and second by the advantages of a higher Training school, feel the injustice of it. No, no! there is much too much chaos with the present system of training. More often than not, we are let loose in the wards "*à la grâce de Dieu*," and still worse at the mercy of the "Sister" and "Staff Nurse," who, if they happen to take to you, well and good, if not, they have it in their power to deprive you of every opportunity of learning and seeing what is going on. Let there be a central and unbiassed Board of examination, and thus let each "Sister" and each "Hospital" feel responsible for the training of its Nurses, and do not let us hear any more of "Surgical," "Medical," "Obstetric," or "Midwifery" Nurses. "A fully-trained Nurse" is one who can put her hand to anything, and carry out *any* of the doctor's orders—when they have been trained in *every* branch, *then only* are they *trained Nurses*—later on they can specialise if they like, "*chacun à son goût*."

The London Obstetrical Society has been a very good beginning in the way of examinations, and *franchement*, I think more of my L.O.S. Certificate and that of my colleagues, than of any Hospital one, simply because I know how I was overhauled, and because I have a pretty accurate idea of the knowledge the successful ones possessed, or they would not have been passed.

Now the question is, if all of us Nurses agree upon examinations, who is to take up our cause? We should, I am sure, like H.R.H. Princess Christian to be at our head, but to join the Royal British Nurses' Association under the present *régime*, and with all its disgraceful proceedings? No! No!—No philanthropic Sir J. Crichton-Browne. We Nurses are neither slaves nor paupers. Many of us are the daughters, nieces, sisters, cousins, or wives of the doctors, and if they wish to join our Associations, and give us their brotherly help, let them do it in a nice, courteous, chivalrous, manly way—not as dictators, nor as philanthropists to paupers. We must have our freedom of speech, and thought, and action, and the working of the Society must be a loyal, mutual one—on the footing and principle that "as Woman is the complement of Man, and completes his manhood," so the Nurse is the complement of the doctor, and completes his profession—not as his *rival*, but as his helpmate. And as such she deserves his manly loyalty, help and support, but not his *philanthropy*.

Yours again, EXCELSIOR.

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