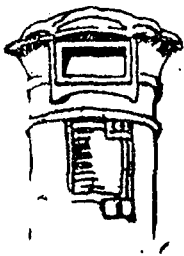


cation of the Röntgen Rays to Surgical Diagnosis," by Mr. Isenthal.

December 7th.—Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, will open the Sale of Work in aid of the Church Army Homes for the Outcast.



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.

BREAY v. BROWNE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a lengthened defence of Sir James Crichton-Browne's conduct as vice-Chairman of the Royal British Nurses' Association has appeared in the Press, and as the members of the General Council were not permitted to discuss the subject to which he alluded at the General Council Meeting on the 16th of October, will you, of your courtesy, allow me, in as few words as possible, to show why Miss Breay claimed her right to propose her resolution at the last General Meeting of that Corporation, and, when refused, necessarily defended her right by legal means?

For a long time past there has been a growing feeling of dissatisfaction among the older members of our Association, at what we consider a failure on the part of the Executive Committee to carry out the aims and objects for which our Charter was granted, namely, "the mutual counsel, comfort, and support of persons practising as Nurses." We have had personal experience that, on the contrary, these "persons" are the last who would be allowed by many of the gentlemen on the Executive Committee to "take mutual counsel," or to "support" one another. I can myself bear witness to having been silenced by Sir James Crichton-Browne, who used the name of Her Royal Highness, the President, for that purpose.

In January, 1896, I went to London to attend a meeting of the Council with the sole object of taking part in the discussion relative to the case of Miss Barlow, this being part of the business on the agenda for that day's meeting. The Vice-Chairman absolutely prevented me from speaking, though I claimed my right to do so. Under these circumstances, and being anxious to avoid the scandal of publicity, to which the Committee objected in Miss Barlow's case, a number of Matrons and Nurses (sixty-nine in all) signed a resolution embodying their protest against (1) some of the glaring injustices done to members of the Corporation; against (2) excessive expenditure; against (3) the violation of the Charter and Bye-laws in certain cases. Of those who signed, thirty-six were Matrons, some of them holding important positions in London and the provinces.

We made no attempt to get a large number of signatures, as we thought that the professional standing of many of those who signed would entitle them to a fair, if not a courteous, hearing. Miss Breay's name, Miss Beachcroft's, and my own will be found among those to whom the Charter was originally granted. We could have induced others to sign whose names appear in the same list, but we forbore to ask them, wishing to avoid every appearance of party spirit. Miss Breay kindly acted, as Secretary, and was selected to present the protest at the general meeting. It is a matter of history that, notwithstanding the fact that the resolution, embodying this protest, appeared on the agenda, Sir J. Crichton-Browne, acting as Chairman, refused to receive it, on what Mr. Commissioner Kerr has ruled were insufficient grounds.

Miss Breay has had the courage to defend our rights in a Court of Justice, and I, for one, sincerely thank her for the course she has adopted, while regretting that such an unpleasant duty should have been forced upon her. In asking her to act for us we did not anticipate such a result, though, at the same time, we heartily endorse her action. Sir James Crichton-Browne has spoken of us as "a small and discredited faction"; we may be a minority, but I think he has yet to learn how many we are, and I fail to see in what way we have "discredited" ourselves, except it be owing to the fact that our representative, Miss Breay, sought justice at the hands of an English jury, and obtained it at Sir James Crichton-Browne's expense.

"All things come to those who wait," and I believe our patience is not yet worn out, and that the time is rapidly coming when we may be allowed to manage our own affairs. It is all we ask for; but now, or then, we refuse to be deprived of our rights, and will claim them, if need be, by appeal to law. Perhaps it may be wise for me to state that, in thus writing, I am not acting as the mouthpiece of any person or persons, although I know I am expressing opinions which are held by a good many.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours very faithfully,

HENRIETTA C. POOLE,

Member of the Council R.B.N.A.,
Matron East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn.

A DISCLAIMER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As one of the members of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association who was not able to be present on the 16th of October, I should like to publicly dissociate myself from any responsibility concerning the disgraceful proceedings which took place on that occasion. Had I been present I should certainly have voted against the re-election of Sir James Crichton-Browne, as I consider that he has no right to take the chair at any of our meetings until the judgment given in the case of Breay *versus* Browne has been reversed. I desire to take this occasion to protest against the right of reply having been denied to Dr. Bedford Fenwick after the bitter attack made upon him, at the same meeting, by Sir James Crichton-Browne.

The conduct of the Journal of the Association also, in my opinion, must be most strongly condemned by

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