

I agree fully with all that has been said in the RECORD concerning the dangers of registering women as Mental Nurses without general Hospital training, and feel it would be most unjust, not only to the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, *but to the public*. It is suggested that these untrained so-called Mental Nurses are "to have the same status in the Association" as the trained members. What is that "status," and how has it been obtained? In my judgment by women who for the last quarter of a century have been working towards a high ideal of professional efficiency in Nursing, in our large Nurse Training Schools, and who have, to obtain that "status," spent years of their lives in performing the most arduous duties, at the expense, in many cases, of *their lives*. The position the really efficient and devoted Nurse has won for herself to-day—in the opinion of the medical profession and the public—has not been won without the very greatest self-sacrifice, and is it so poor a thing that we should stand aside and allow all that we have worked for, and all that we have won, to be wrested from us. I think not. This depreciation of our "status" must never be allowed; it is a *national question*, in which the interests of the sick, rich and poor, are indissolubly bound up with the interests of trained Nurses, and we must defend those interests as a public as well as a personal *duty*.

Yours truly,

"A MENTAL NURSE."

#### "THE GREAT BETRAYAL."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In the report in the *Nurses' Journal* of Sir James Crichton-Browne's lengthy defence at the General Council Meeting—very much calmed down, I notice, from the actual tirade—I observe that Sir James is reported to have said that "As for the charge of conspiracy with other medical men to seize on power and deprive the Nurses of their rights, it is too preposterous. . . . They had been forced into prominence simply from the reluctance of Nurses to put themselves forward."

Now, may I ask what part the leading Matrons and Nurses in the Association have been permitted to take in discussing the question of the admittance of untrained persons on to our Register. We find the truth of the matter is this—*they have so far been absolutely ignored by the officials, as usual*.

Dr. Outterson Wood tells us that "I brought this matter before the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association entirely on my own responsibility." With what result? That a sub-committee composed of *five doctors and two Nurses* was appointed—Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Mr. John Langton, Mr. Edward Fardon (Hon. Officers), and Dr. Outterson Wood; Miss Thorold and Mrs. Dacre Craven, *both* Hon. Officers. So that to discuss this momentous question—a question of far more vital importance to certificated Nurses than they can realise until they stand cheek by jowl on a public Register with persons who cannot lay claim to any general training at all—*not one independent Matron or Nurse had a seat*. With what result? That recommendations have been submitted by this unrepresentative sub-committee—to the new General Council—and accepted without one word of discussion, ignoring altogether the Registration Board and Executive Committee—because on those Committees the independent representatives of the Nurses have seats and a voice—thus depriving us and our independent representatives of any voice in our own affairs at all.

I further learn from the *Nurses' Journal* that "H.R.H. the President sought and obtained permission to hold a Conference with the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of Lunatic Asylums in conjunction with the sub-Committee entrusted with the scheme, for the admission of Mental Nurses."

Are, then, the Matrons of our Nurse Training Schools and the certificated registered Nurses, members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to be excluded from a Conference at which their most vital interests will be discussed, and which may deprive them of the very benefits for which they are associated? Is such exclusion right or just?—does it corroborate, or does it not, the well-known fact that the Nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have, for the last three years, been deprived more and more by the present officials of their rightful position and power in their own Association?

Should this great wrong be done us without an opportunity of even expressing our opinion or a protest within the Corporation, we must make our protest in public, and we shall do it.

Yours truly, L. B.

[A meeting was held at the offices of the Association on Wednesday of a few persons selected by the Hon. Officers; it is therefore to be hoped that the matter will be dealt with at the next Executive Committee meeting. Should any attempt, however, be made to carry the present scheme into effect—injurious as it must be to trained Nurses and the sick—we are informed that a meeting will be called to bring the whole matter before the public.—ED.]

#### WELL-DESERVED HELP.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—We ask your help in making known the needs of the Hospital that ministers to the children of the poor in Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Hackney, and the vast populations to the north and north-east of these crowded districts. For the past thirty years the North Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch—perhaps the least known of the more important voluntary charities—has carried on its work hampered by lack of funds and at times almost overwhelmed by the constantly increasing demands on its resources.

As the result of the great effort made in connection with the recent Bazaar at the Queen's Hall, it is now out of debt; but so far from being out of danger that unless £1000 can be collected by the end of the year it must again become involved. Our immediate need is extremely pressing. The accounts now due amount to £700, while we have practically no funds in hand.

We plead for donations and new annual subscriptions to enable the work of providing relief in sickness and accident to over 16,000 children of the poor annually, to be maintained in its full extent free from debt, and do without the necessity of spending part of the contributions in interest on loans—an item which has made serious inroads in our slender income for some years past.

Cheques, &c., crossed Barclay & Co., Limited, should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. T. Glenton-Kerr, 27, Clements Lane, E.C.

We are, Madam,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) FREDK. FITZROY, Chairman,  
STUART KNILL, Vice-President,  
R. C. STEPNEY, Bishop Suffragan  
for East and North London.

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