

not an old Member, and who is, evidently, as unacquainted with its history and its work as with the wishes and views of the Nursing profession. The idea was accepted by the officials of the Association, and contrary to all precedent, and without any authority from the Charter or the Bye-laws, the General Council immediately appointed a Sub-Committee, consisting of Hon. officers and Dr. Outerson Wood, to consider this question. This irregular Committee reported in October to the new General Council, which was largely composed of Nurses belonging to the Middlesex Hospital, who are under the control of Mr. Fardon, the Medical Superintendent of that Hospital and Medical Honorary Secretary of the Association, and of Miss Thorold, Matron of that Hospital and one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Association. The adoption of their recommendations, therefore, by a Council so constituted was a foregone conclusion; and, as all the leaders of the Nursing profession have been, by the official policy, shuffled off the General Council, there was no one there, sufficiently independent, to express the views of the Nurses against the proposed degradation of the Register.

It is thus the bitter irony of fate that the officials should have packed the Council with *automata* which could not, or dared not, whisper any warning which might have saved them from the morass into which they have now plunged. But nothing else could have been expected; and the storm of discredit which is now rapidly arising against their mismanagement has been evoked by themselves alone.

But, as if to throw their proceedings into a darker shadow, we are informed that the Hon. Secretaries have taken the unprecedented course of keeping this matter entirely from the cognisance of the Executive Committee of the Association. According to the Charter and Bye-Laws, and according to the invariable custom hitherto pursued, the proposition in question should have been brought, in the first instance, before the Executive Committee; but it was evidently anticipated that in that case the independent members who have seats on that body would strenuously oppose a scheme so disastrous to the interests of the Nursing profession, so dangerous to the public, and so derogatory to the Association. Although, therefore, this matter was mooted five months ago, the Executive Committee have never yet had it brought before

their notice; and every effort to obtain any reliable information upon the subject, made even by members of the Executive Committee, has failed; all knowledge of what is going on, it is stated, has been denied by the half-dozen officials to the members of the body intrusted by the Charter with the management of the Association. Such a fact requires no comment, and admirably illustrates the present methods of management of the Association. So the Executive Committee, as well as the General Council, has been gagged upon this vitally important matter.

But the Registration Board is the body which must deal with the applications for Registration from the persons whom this Lunatic Attendant scheme would render eligible for enrolment on the Register. It was therefore apparently thought necessary, in order to secure the success of the plan, that independent members should be removed from the Registration Board. Consequently, it is openly asserted that the Regulation constituting the Registration Board—which has been in legal existence since the Charter was granted, but has practically been followed ever since the Registration Board was first formed, and which gave the independent members of the Executive Committee *ex-officio* seats upon the Registration Board—has been rescinded. This, it is said, was strongly protested against, but was carried; the names—which will, doubtless, be made public in due course—of those who voted for this Resolution probably being significant. The effect of the Resolution was that the independent members were removed from the Registration Board, and thus all opportunity of any protest on their part was effectually prevented. Their places, it is rumoured, have been filled up by persons who had no experience of the working of the Association, and who possess no knowledge of the great issues at stake. Our distinguished questioner will, therefore, understand that the officials have, for their own purposes, taken every possible precaution to prevent their scheme being criticised or opposed within the Association, and we agree with him that their "conduct has been most disloyal and reprehensible, and deserves public condemnation."

But, as we have shown, the ground has been cleared for carrying out in secrecy, the plan which has been concocted with such mystery, of placing untrained Lunatic Atten-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)