

their present permanent and *ex officio* seats on the Executive Committee, so that the only *permanent influence* on that body shall be exercised by the Hon. Officers; and that, as if to make confusion worse confounded, instead of the Executive Committee being composed, as now, of 20 matrons of experience and position, there are to be 10 matrons, and an equal number of nurses and medical men, the result of this arrangement being quite obvious to the least intelligent observer—the co-operation of medical men and their *working subordinates*, the nurses, in opposition to the senior nursing officer, the matron. This has been the result in the past, in a limited degree, and the humiliation of any matron who accepted such an invidious position in the future would be complete. No suggestion could more completely cut at the very root of all nursing discipline in our training schools, than placing the sisters and nurses in conjunction with the physicians and surgeons, in whose wards they work, in a voting majority of 2 to 1 against their senior officer, the matron.

We have long sounded a note of warning concerning the deliberate conspiracy in the Royal British Nurses' Association to deprive the matrons of our Training Schools of all real power in the Nursing Corporation; and if they do not now grasp the significance of the policy as embodied in the official revision of the By-laws, they will soon be made to feel its disastrous effects. Imagine an equal number of junior Lieutenants and of Field Marshals in charge of the British War Office; or, better still, four young House Physicians appointed as Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, while half the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons were composed of recently appointed House Surgeons at some insignificant hospitals.

Next week we shall deal with Mr. Fardon's answer to the question, "But have you not given dissatisfaction by removing the founders of the Association from the Council?"

Surprise was felt at the Annual Meeting at the appearance of Mrs. Dacre Craven on the platform, performing the duties of Nurse Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Craven has stated that she has resigned this position, and it seems she has not performed the duties of that office for some months past, so that our Association has not even a figure-head as Nurse Hon. Secretary. This is distinctly unfair to the nurses; either Mrs. Craven should attend and perform her secretarial duties—which of late have been entirely monopolised by Mr. Fardon—or she should officially resign, so that a successor can be appointed.

The Progress made in Establishing a Three Years' Course in Training Schools for Nurses.*

Two years ago, when this Association met in Boston, a very interesting and instructive paper was read on "The Three Years' Course in connection with the Eight Hour System." At that time only one training school, that of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, had formally adopted the three years' course, and one other, the Presbyterian, in Philadelphia, was admitting pupils, with the understanding that they should remain for three years if required to do so.

When making inquiries as to the progress which has been made since that time, I wrote only to those training schools whose superintendents are members of this Association. Sixty-three letters of inquiry were sent, and fifty-seven answers returned. These showed that a present total of sixteen schools have formally adopted the three years' course of training. Four others stated that there was a prospect in the near future of its introduction into their schools; two wrote of a prospective provisional third year term; and several superintendents expressed their regrets that they had not yet been able to adopt the lengthened course.

These sixteen hospitals which lead in this progressive movement are not confined to one section of the country, but are widely spread. In Philadelphia there are five, viz:—

The University of Pennsylvania Hospital;
The Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia.
The Jefferson Hospital.
The Polyclinic Hospital.
The Pennsylvania Hospital.

New York City two, viz:—
The New York Hospital.
St. Luke's Hospital.

Brooklyn two, viz:—
The Brooklyn City Hospital.
The Long Island College Hospital.

Newton, Mass., one, viz:—
The Newton Hospital.

Baltimore, Mch., one, viz:—
The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Chicago, Ill., one, viz:—
The Illinois training school (nursing the Cook County and Presbyterian Hospitals).

* Being a paper read at the Superintendents' Conference, Baltimore, February, 1897, by Miss Lucy Walker.

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