

being what Mr. Fardon has stated them to be—that the Royal British Nurses' Association should have for one of its three vice-chairmen Miss Thorold, the matron of the Middlesex Hospital; for its medical honorary secretary, Mr. Fardon, the resident medical officer of the Middlesex Hospital; and that out of one hundred sisters and nurses on the General Council, representative of nurses in the *British Empire*, sixteen should be forced upon us from this one institution, while, of the medical men on the Council, eight should belong to the Middlesex Hospital.

Then again, the official journal of the Association is conducted by a sub-committee so largely composed of Middlesex Hospital officials that it is nick-named the "Middlesex Magazine." If the Middlesex Hospital officials are opposed to legal registration, let them publicly join those hospitals—such as St. Thomas's, the London, and others—which have openly adopted a policy of uncompromising opposition to this measure. Such an attitude we can understand and respect. But to disagree with our fundamental principles, and yet, at the same time, to force themselves into power and authority over us, can only bring both upon themselves, and upon the hospital of which they are officials, unenviable notoriety and disrepute in the opinion of all honourable people.

Mr. Fardon's statement that "Mrs. Bedford Fenwick retired for one year from the Council. . . . in rotation, and she is now eligible for election by the votes of the members," is utterly misleading. We have had no opportunity of voting for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's re-election, as her name since its removal has been carefully excluded from the official list by Mr. Fardon. Many influential matrons have asked that the founder's name should be replaced on the governing body. They have written to the Council on the subject, but their letters have been received with jeers from the Middlesex party, and contemptuously ignored.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BREAY.

AN ANNOYING MISTAKE.
To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I was very much surprised to see an announcement in the *Nurses' Journal* for August, that I was appointed matron to Charing Cross Hospital. I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly contradict it in your next issue, as the *Nurses' Journal*, as you know, only comes out every three months. I cannot imagine how such a mistake was made, and it was certainly news to me.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA CHAPMAN.
Passmore Edwards Convalescent Home,
Limpsfield, Surrey.

[We sympathise with our correspondent and others who have been annoyed by the mis-statement of Mr. Fardon, Dr. Bezly Thorne, and other members of the present Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal*. But we cannot affect to be surprised at any evidence of ignorance on nursing matters from such sources.—ED.]

A DUTY TO THE PUBLIC.
To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice various articles in the daily press in which the recent decision of the Local Government Board, to discontinue the employment of

paupers as nurses in workhouse infirmaries, is attributed largely to the strong opinion, expressed years ago by the British Medical Association on the subject, in condemnation of the practice. If this be so the British Medical Association is much to be congratulated, and thousands of sick paupers, if they knew who were their benefactors, would, I am sure, heap benedictions upon their heads. But, this reform in workhouse nursing having been adopted, I hope that the British Medical Association will turn its attention to another matter which it espoused years ago, in which reform is quite as urgently needed.

It will be remembered that in July, 1895, the British Medical Association passed unanimously the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed, providing for the registration of medical, surgical, and obstetric nurses, and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider the matter, and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation."

What I should like to know is, what measures the British Medical Association is taking to obtain the registration of nurses. Those who are "in the know" may be possessed of much interesting information on this point, but to us nurses, who have waited for the last ten years, hoping, longing, and working for legal registration, the waiting time seems long, and the silence of the British Medical Association, at all events publicly, inexplicable. When this important and influential medical body pledged themselves to take measures to obtain such legislation, our hopes were high, and we thought our cause as good as won. But now—the British Medical Association is unaccountably silent; the Executive Committee of our own Royal British Nurses' Association, which was formed with the avowed object of obtaining legal registration, has betrayed us on this crucial matter; the whole army of the great "untrained" is working tooth and nail to oppose registration; ignorance and apathy on the subject on the part of the public, who do not realize how closely their own interests are involved in the subject, prevail; and the few leaders of the nursing profession who have the courage of their convictions, and who are not afraid boldly to proclaim what many feel, but are afraid to say, are insulted, misrepresented, and ridiculed. This minority of nurses, however, has bravely held the fort against overwhelming odds. If the age of chivalry is past, as I sometimes think it is, and men are content nowadays to stand by and watch a handful of women being bullied, because they have the courage to defend their principles, at all events those men who have espoused the same principles, should have the temerity and the tenacity of purpose to uphold them. Otherwise the only conclusion we nurses can arrive at, and one which is not calculated to increase our respect for the medical profession, is this, that they are standing aside because they are afraid, and will come in at the death, when the women have gained the day.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours obediently,
IMPATIENT.

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