

public inquiry should be held to clear themselves from the allegations made against them.

It must be remembered that those who protested made definite charges, that they did not ask to have their statements accepted as proved, but only that their truth or falsity might be investigated; because, if they be true, it is self-evident that the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association are not qualified for the positions they hold. But the officials are attempting to ignore this demand for an inquiry into their management, and it has, therefore, become necessary to take steps to obtain the investigation without their assistance. Meetings are about to be organized in different parts of the United Kingdom, and will be held during the next four months, at each of which resolutions will be proposed demanding a public inquiry into the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association. These meetings are being convened by those members of the Association who have formed themselves into a Committee for the purpose of defending the rights and privileges given to them under the Royal Charter. The first Meeting of the series will take place on Wednesday next, October 13th, at four o'clock at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road, W.C. It is hoped that the officials of the Association will realize the importance to themselves of being present at that Meeting, and replying to the serious charges brought against them. The one organ in the press which supports them is wise enough to give them this advice, and if they do not avail themselves of the opportunity, the public will draw the only natural conclusion. It must be distinctly understood that the public inquiry which is demanded, will be sought for until it is gained; and judging by the number of Members of Parliament who are now promising their support to the movement the probability of such an inquiry being granted next Session is becoming greater, every month.

In brief, it is claimed that the Nurses' Association, for the first six years of its existence, not only achieved great success, but that it was, financially, more than self-supporting, so that it saved during that period more than £900 with which the great expenses of the Royal Charter were defrayed. And during those years it was chiefly managed by the leading Nurses who founded it. For the last three years, it is proved that the finances of the Association have been so extravagantly

managed that its expenditure has exceeded its reliable income by several hundreds of pounds each year, and that, in consequence, incessant begging appeals for funds have been resorted to. The members claim that previous experience proves that this extravagance is unnecessary, and is therefore discreditable to the Association. In the next place, it is asserted that the leading Matrons who founded the Association, have been ousted out of its management, and that the control has been usurped by a few medical men who are utilizing the Association—not for the benefit of the Nurses—and who, in order to accomplish their ends, have felt compelled to pack the governing bodies with their own friends and dependents. In short, the officials are rapidly ruining the Association, the existence and work of which is of great importance not only to the Nursing profession, but also to the public. Failing to obtain any hearing within the Association, the members are compelled to appeal to the public, the press, and Parliament, as the only means of obtaining justice, and of saving their Association.

Annotations.

SIR ORACLE.

"I AM Sir Oracle, and when I ope my mouth let no dog bark," is the attitude assumed by Sir James Crichton Browne, when speaking from the platform of superior wisdom, as all who are acquainted with Sir James' manner of conducting business know. Although belonging merely to the sex whose vocation it is to "cook potatoes," and from whom, therefore, any expression of opinion will, doubtless, appear to this gentleman as entirely out of place, as does any concern on the part of a woman in anything, except the concoction of suitable dainties, wherewith to tickle the palates of the "lords of creation," we venture to comment upon, and even to criticise, the remarks made by Sir James Crichton Browne in the address which he recently delivered at Mason's College, Birmingham. The one feature that distinguishes man from all other animals, is, in the opinion of Sir James Crichton Browne, the possession of the moral sense which has created "an ethical atmosphere which he alone of living beings breathes." We are almost inclined to believe that there is a substratum of truth in this statement, at least

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