

privileges which have been wrested from them in their own Chartered Corporation, and rendered null and void by the miserable professional jealousy of the men who now rule the Royal British Nurses' Association, will be claimed and exercised elsewhere. Human Liberty is a sacred right, and it will take more than the power possessed by men capable of the tactics used by the Honorary Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in conjunction with the Editor of the *Hospital* newspaper, to wrest from educated trained nurses the professional benefits granted to them by the Privy Council of the Empire, of which they are well deserving subjects.

UNDER the heading of "The Royal British Nurses' Association," the following paragraph appeared in last week's issue of Sir Henry Burdett's paper, the *Hospital* :—

"We are asked to publish the following statement:— The attention of the Executive Committee has been called to a circular recently sent to a large number of nurses asking them to allow their names to be attached to a petition against the sanction of the new bye-laws by the Privy Council. The committee desire to point out to those nurse members who may have received the circular, that they are asked to authorize their names to be attached to a document they have never seen, and to petition against bye-laws which they have had no opportunity of reading or discussing. The circular also contains statements as to the nature of the bye-laws which are misleading and inaccurate. Nurses are strongly recommended to postpone any action in the matter until they have had an opportunity of discussing and considering the bye-laws at the general meeting, which will shortly be held, and which every nurse member will be invited to attend. Nurses who have signed the post-card sent to them, under a misapprehension as to their nature or authority, should at once let this be known to the Secretary of the Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W."

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association we are able to deny that any power was given to the acting secretary, Miss G. A. Leigh, or to the Honorary Officers to supply information concerning the private business of the Committee to Sir Henry Burdett's paper; but as this grave breach of faith has been committed, we must decline to be included amongst those who have sanctioned it. As usual, power was given to Mr. Fardon and the Editorial Committee to address the members on the subject through our well-named "officials' organ" the *Nurses' Journal*, but as such statements are constantly withheld from the Executive Committee they have become widely recognized as merely the *ex parte* statements of the Honorary Officers. Indeed, to quote the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association has now become a mere *façon de parler*—it simply acts the inglorious part of the Chorus in the old Greek plays.

THE fact is that the Honorary Officers and the medical members of the Executive Committee are extremely irate to find that certain nurse members, who are not to be intimidated, have formed themselves into a Committee to defend the rights and privileges granted to them in the Royal Charter, and embodied in the present Bye-laws. This Committee has thought well to issue a statement concerning the illegal conduct of business, and the grievances from which they suffer, owing to the present management of their affairs. They have printed this statement and circulated it widely, and demand a full and sufficient public inquiry into the conduct of the Honorary Officers and their supporters.

THE Members' Rights Defence Committee being perfectly cognizant of the tactics employed to deprive them of all practical independence in the proposed new Bye-laws, drawn up by Sir James Crichton Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Mr. John Langton, Mr. Edward Fardon, and Miss Godiva Thorold, have also circularized certain nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, asking them to sign the following form :—

"I request you to place my signature to a Petition praying the Privy Council not to sanction the new Bye-laws proposed by the Officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, until a full inquiry into the present management has been held.

"Name
"Address

WITH the usual trickery employed, it will be observed that *the reason* for signing the petition has been omitted by the person who has reported to Sir Henry Burdett's paper the private business of the Executive Committee. Members were not asked "to allow their names to be attached to a petition against the sanction of the new Bye-laws," or "to authorize their names to be attached to a document they had never seen." They were invited and have responded, we are glad to learn, *in hundreds*, to petition that, before the Privy Council sanctioned the Honorary Officers' new code of Bye-laws, "a full inquiry into the present management should be held." This is only a justifiable request after the public manner in which the officials have been accused of denying to the nurse members their legal rights, and tricking, and insulting them, as stated in writing by Mrs. Bridges, a late member of the Executive Committee, statements which can be corroborated and proved by ourselves.

THE person responsible for the statement in the *Hospital* continues :—"The circular also contains statements as to the nature of the Bye-laws which are misleading and inaccurate." To which we reply again, these statements are written—why are

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