

what is evidently to him, a familiar conversational method, concerning a matter which would, to unprejudiced persons, appear to be but little worthy of such warmth. A Vice-President of the Association had stated that the Executive Committee had been prevented from discussing the Bye-laws brought before that body by the officials on June 4th, that Mr. Fardon, in presenting the Bye-laws, proposed that they should not be discussed, and that the resolution being put to the obedient meeting, was duly carried—three of the members present, however, immediately protesting—and placing their protest in writing—against being thus deprived of their right to discuss and consider matters brought before them. To the uninitiated, it might almost appear that proposals which involve the total recasting of the present Constitution of the Association might fairly demand immediate and most careful discussion at the hands of its executive.

But what is regarded as honourable and customary in other associations clearly possesses a different complexion in the Royal British Nurses' Association, at present; and therefore not only were the members of the Executive Committee prevented from considering the new Bye-laws, but the Executive Committee informed the General Council that they *were* considering them. That such a trivial mis-statement should be actually questioned will doubtless justify to every official and his friends the congenial language in which Dr. Bezly Thorne indulged himself. But we, perhaps, from a prejudiced standpoint, can hardly regard the fact that Sir James Crichton Browne permitted such language to be employed as creditable to the Chairman. It can not, without palpable flattery, be described as creditable to the Association.

It is reported that in a district adjacent to London Bridge, such language, as that in which Dr. Bezly Thorne indulges, is customary, and passes without comment; but to introduce the manners and customs of this district into meetings of a Royal Chartered Corporation of women, can hardly be regarded as respectful to its Royal President, on the part either of Dr. Bezly Thorne, or of Sir James Crichton Browne. At any rate, the fact that such colloquialisms are employed at meetings of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association will perhaps explain to the public why so many gentlewomen decline to be associated in any way

with the present management, and why they carefully abstain from attending the meetings of the Association. It furnishes also such a powerful excuse for packing the Council with "housemaids," that we are astonished that Mr. Fardon has omitted, by some curious oversight, to utilise this argument, as it deserves.

We do not, of course, affect to be surprised at Dr. Bezly Thorne's conduct, or at the complacency with which the Middlesex Hospital nurses and medical men permit vulgarity which no other body with which we are acquainted would tolerate for one moment.

A Public Protest.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—We, the undersigned members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, now nursing the wounded in Greece, learn with the deepest indignation that during the absence in Greece of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in the performance of a great international duty, as our superintendent of nursing, an attempt is being made in England, by the Hon. Officers, or certain members of the Executive Committee of our Association, to remove Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's name from the Bye-laws and the Executive Committee, thus depriving her of the honourable distinction unanimously bestowed upon her by her nurse colleagues, when the Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted to the Association in 1893.

In recognition of the splendid work done by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for the best interests of the nursing profession, her honoured name was placed in the Bye-laws of the Royal British Nurses' Association, as a perpetual member of the Executive Committee and, we also thought, as a member of the General Council. Owing, however, to a quibble in the wording of the Bye-law constituting the General Council, Mrs. Fenwick and the matrons of the leading nurse training schools were deprived of their *ex officio* seats on that body in 1895—an injustice bitterly resented by the older and more independent nurse members of the Association, who still feel their honour impugned by that breach of faith.

That the Vice-chairmen and Honorary Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, consisting of Sir James Crichton Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Miss Thorold (Matron of Middlesex Hospital), Mr. John Langton (Treasurer), and the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. Edward Fardon and Mrs. Dacre Craven, should, in conjunction with certain well-known members of

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