

the Executive Committee, meet together in the absence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and propose to alter the Bye-law which constitutes the Executive Committee, omitting her name, and thus depriving her of a seat on that body which she has held since founding the Association at her own house in 1887, is an example of the cowardly means adopted by her enemies in their systematic persecution of a public-spirited lady. That persecution has now continued for four years, and is widely recognised as a disgrace to the professions of medicine and nursing.

We unite in the strongest protest against this action on the part of the Hon. Officers and Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and we call upon our fellow-members in England to unite with us, so that this wrong may be made public and prevented.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's name was placed in our Bye-laws by the consent of the Lords of the Privy Council, and we hope that all honourable members will approach Her Majesty and the Privy Council, so that they may learn the truth concerning the persecution of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, for daring to support the principles upon which our Association was founded, and for courageously resisting over and over again an official policy of tyranny on the part of the Hon. Officers and Executive Committee, by which freedom of conscience and speech have been denied to the nurse members, who are thereby deprived of the privileges granted to them in the Royal Charter.

We are, Madam,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) S. BEATRIX FARNSWORTH,  
CHARLOTTE FLANAGAN,  
JANE CHARLOTTE CHILD,  
CLARA HILL,  
LAVINIA FAWKES,  
KATHARINE STOLLARD,  
EMMA DOBSON,  
ELLEN J. TILLOTT,  
LILY WARRINER.

Ecole Militaire, Athens,

June 17th, 1897.

### The Matrons' Protest.

WE are glad to report that we have received many more signatures to the Matrons' Protest against the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the request for a public inquiry. We sympathise with those matrons who would like to sign the protest and "dare not."

### Annotations.

#### WOMEN DOCTORS.

A MORE practical proof that the "woman's cause" is making progress—in spite of all the opposition to which some people descend to prevent their wives and sisters and daughters from claiming the same liberties which they insist upon for themselves—could scarcely be given, than the fact that women doctors met in congress, under Mrs. Fawcett's presidency, at the Victorian Era Exhibition, on Tuesday afternoon, and that there was a large and enthusiastic audience to listen to what they had to say. Women, therefore, may take heart of grace, and if sometimes they are tempted to think that the cause which they have so much at heart is making no progress, they can look back to the time, little more than a quarter of a century ago, when Mrs. Garrett Anderson, whose paper on Medical Training for Women in England was listened to this week with the greatest interest, and who is now president of the East Anglian Branch of the British Medical Association, was obliged to go to Paris for her M.D. degree, because no university in England would admit her to its examinations.

Mrs. Anderson stated that there were in England, Scotland, and Ireland, six schools of medicine at which women could study with men, four medical schools for women only, and six universities in which they can take the M.D. degree.

Mrs. Anderson also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the separate and mixed schools of medicine for women. In the mixed schools she thought the best teachers, and the cheapest and most thorough course could be obtained. But the scattered women in the men's schools had rather a dull time of it, and therefore the separate schools were most in favour with students. Mrs. Anderson was of opinion that if the separate schools were large enough to be well equipped their advantages far outweighed their disadvantages. She deprecated the suggestion of a woman's university, and stated that it would find no favour with women students. The moral of yesterday's conference was, we think, that women may take courage; and remembering the heavy odds with which the women doctors have had to contend, and which they have surmounted, may believe that the country will not always be patient while its representatives waste their time in puerile and petty evasions of a subject so important as the enfranchisement of half the nation.

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