

are immediately objected to—by one of their nominees! In which case it may be made valid—by a vote of the other nominees!! To those who remember the historical proceedings of Sir James Crichton Browne, such a provision will appear simply farcical. If this provision were sanctioned, the Charter and Bye-Laws might be simply torn up, for all the utility or protection they would be to the members.

The officials further give themselves power to settle when and where the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held; and, for example, instead of these being held, as the present Bye-Laws arrange, "at the offices of the Corporation, on the first Friday of each month," the officials, under the new Bye-Laws, might summon a meeting to settle the most important business, to meet in the Orkney Islands, at twenty-four hours' notice, or at any other spot equally inaccessible for the members of the Executive Committee.

It must be remembered that these Bye-Laws have been drawn up by the officials without the slightest necessity, and without any authority from the members. As we have briefly shown, their chief effect would be to give absolute, uncontrolled, authority over the members into the hands of these officials. The superlative impudence of such proposals would be incredible if they were not exhibited in print. The proposal that the Association should break faith with the leaders of the nursing profession, is a detail which probably appeared to these gentlemen to be insignificant. And that the nurse members will calmly relinquish all ideas of keeping faith with their leaders, and even the important rights of self-government which they now possess, is, by these sage officials, evidently taken for granted. We must, however, emphasize the very important fact that the General Council, on November 19th, actually, in absolute silence, agreed to these Bye-Laws, giving the officials this uncontrolled authority over the Association, and practically withdrawing from the members all voice in the management of their own affairs. A more complete proof of the charge that the Council has been packed with the friends and dependants of the officials could not be given or required.

We have only space for one word more. We say without hesitation that no member of the Association is justified in relinquishing the rights given to the members of the Association, and of which, therefore, the present members are only trustees. The new Bye-Laws destroy the present constitution, break

the promises given to medical associations as well as to the leaders of the nursing profession, make the governing bodies of the Association small cliques, utterly unrepresentative of any class or section of the medical or nursing professions, and place the whole of the National Corporation of Nurses under the absolute and unfettered authority of six officials. Those who are present at the General Meeting, on December 17th, must not think that this great betrayal will be proposed or carried in the dark. The public, as well as the nursing world, are carefully watching what transpires. We are aware, as the officials evidently are not, that this meeting is only the beginning, not, as they think, the end. We commend these Bye-Laws to the notice of the public, because they prove directly some of the charges, and strongly substantiate the others, which have been brought against the officials, and because, therefore, they will be invaluable evidence at the inquiry into the management of the Association, which Parliament will be asked to institute next Session.

Annotations.

QUI S'EXCUSE, S'ACCUSE.

ONE of the most remarkable instances of this proverb which we have ever met, is to be found in a circular which was issued last week, to the matron members of the Nurses' Association, by officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, imploring the former to express their confidence in the latter. Many of these circulars were addressed in the writing of Miss Thorold, Matron of the Middlesex Hospital, and Vice-Chairman of the Nurses' Association, and sent in official-looking envelopes, stamped with "The Middlesex Hospital, W.," on the flap, a proceeding which has led more than one Matron to wonder whether the authorities of the Middlesex Hospital approve of this semi-official method of whitewashing the officials. The circular is as follows:—

c/o W. Baugh Allen, Esq.,
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Madam,—It is thought by many that at the present juncture some expression of confidence in the officials, by Matron members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, would materially strengthen the hands of Her Royal Highness the President and the Executive Committee, and would greatly assist in carrying into effect the proposed

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