

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)



THE Quarterly Meeting of the General Council was held on Friday, the 9th inst. at five o'clock, at the Offices of the Association. Sir James Crichton Browne stated that he had been requested by H. R. H. the President to take the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed; and the Medical Honorary Secretary was then called upon to read the Report of the Executive Committee. He commenced by saying that his attention had been called to certain statements concerning the officials, with or without comments, in the daily papers. These related partly to matters connected with the *Nurses' Journal*, and as there was an action for libel against the editor of the Journal, he considered it would not be proper for him to allude to these matters at present, but he hoped that any member who desired to make charges against the management would do so at the Annual Meeting, and if the members then passed a vote of censure on them, they would find that the officials would act upon it. He then read the following:—

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

It is the pleasant duty of the Executive Committee to report that the Address of Congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, signed on behalf of the Association by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, has been presented personally to Her Majesty by our Royal President.

The Executive Committee beg to report that 25 nurses have been registered during the last three months, 19 new members have been enrolled, and 13 have withdrawn.

The Committee regret to report the loss the Association has sustained by the death of Dr. James Andrew, one of its Vice-presidents.

In accordance with the provisions of Bye-law 3, Section B, the names of 74 members, whose subscriptions were three and four years in arrears, have been removed from the Roll of Members.

The Sessional Lectures, which have been much appreciated, were brought to a close on April 30th, when Miss G. Scott, late Matron of the Sussex County Hospital, read a paper on the "Failures and Successes of Private Nurses," for which interesting lecture the Association is much indebted.

The Library continues to be in great request, and it is gratifying to notice its steady increase, due to the generosity of the members themselves. The Library now contains 785 books, and during the three months now under review, no less than 37 volumes have been presented, the names of Mr. Gant and Mr. Stear conspicuously figuring as donors. The cordial thanks of the Association are due to these gentlemen and others for their kindness.

The Executive Committee have to report that an action was brought against the Association by Miss Margaret Breay, a member of the Association, to restrain the Association from applying its funds in defending the action brought by Dr. Bedford Fenwick in respect of a libel alleged to have been published in *The Nurses' Journal* for August, 1896. The application was made in the Court of Chancery, before Mr.

Justice North, who granted an order for an interim injunction pending the trial of the action. The Association appealed against this order, and the case was heard in the Court of Appeal, before Lord Justice Lindley, Lord Justice Lopes, and Lord Justice Chitty. The Court unanimously decided in favour of the Association, and directed the order of Mr. Justice North to be discharged, and the costs to be paid by Miss Breay.

The Sub-Committee appointed in February, 1896, to consider the revision of the Bye-laws, has submitted a Report to the Executive Committee, which is now under consideration.

The Annual Meeting of the Association, fixed to take place on July 22nd, at 11 a.m., will, owing to the kindness of the authorities, be held at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington. Her Royal Highness the President has graciously signified her intention of being present at the Reception, to be held during the afternoon, by the Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Langton, at 62, Harley Street, W.

Miss Guiseppe, who held the appointment of Senior Clerk for nearly three years, and, on occasion, frequently and efficiently discharged the duties of Secretary, has resigned her office.

The adoption of the report having been formally moved and seconded, Dr. Alderson said that he was a member of the Council of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association, and that he protested against the letter sent out by the President and Secretary. He had not agreed to that letter, and he knew other members of the Council also objected to it. He was told there was no reference to it on the Minutes of the Council.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick expressed his surprise that Dr. Alderson should have made such a statement. Dr. Alderson had been present only the previous day at a meeting of the Council of the Medical Practitioners' Association, and if he had had any objection to raise against the proceedings of that Council, it would have been more courteous, and more customary, if he had made it before that Council. Dr. Alderson, however, had not made the slightest protest to the Council of his Association, and it was very extraordinary that he should have done so now when his statements could not be immediately disproved.

Dr. Alderson here rose, and, with much agitation of manner, stated that he had gone to the Council Meeting the previous day intending to protest, but that a gentleman who sat near him at the Council Meeting had had to go away early, and had whispered to him that he had better let the matter drop, and he had let the matter drop, and he had not brought it before the Council as he intended, but he had asked a gentleman who sat near him if it had been mentioned in the minutes, and he understood it had not been mentioned in the minutes, and altogether he should like to protest. Dr. Alderson repeated these statements at considerable length.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick, resuming, said that he thought all unprejudiced persons would agree with him that Dr. Alderson had said nothing which altered the surprise and regret which he felt compelled to express at such an unusual proceeding. It was customary for persons who desired to object to any action on the part of a body with which they were connected to do so, in the first instance, as a matter of ordinary fairness and courtesy, direct to the body concerned. He would

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