

say no more, however, about Dr. Alderson, and would pass on to the report. He must take exception to the statement therein made that the Bye-laws were under the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Association. For some fifteen months, the officials had been engaged in drawing up new Bye-laws, which they had finally brought before the Executive Committee on June 4th; but Mr. Fardon immediately proposed, and it was carried, that the Executive Committee should not discuss these Bye-laws. The Committee, he was informed, had not discussed the matter at the meeting in July, and certainly the members had not been supplied with copies of the Bye-laws. To say, therefore, that the Executive Committee were "considering" a document which was in the custody of the officials, and which they had been specially prevented from discussing, was not only inaccurate, but very misleading.

DR. BEZLY THORNE here rose and said that this was "AN INFAMOUS AND BLACKGUARDLY CHARGE."

Dr. Bedford Fenwick said he had long ago ceased to be surprised at any language used by Dr. Bezly Thorne, but as the abusive words just uttered were typical of the manner in which members were treated if they objected to any official proceeding, he asked that those words should be taken down. As the accuracy of his statement had been questioned, he called for the Minute Book of the Executive Committee to prove that what he said was absolutely correct. This request was not complied with.

Dr. William Duncan, of the Middlesex Hospital, here made his quarterly suggestion that Dr. Fenwick should be no longer heard.

Dr. Fenwick pointed out that this was precisely one of the charges made against the conduct of affairs of this Association, and the Chairman said that they desired to afford Dr. Fenwick every latitude. The suggestion, on this occasion, therefore, was not put to the meeting.

Dr. Fenwick then pointed out that, according to the Committee's report, the membership had diminished by 68 during the last quarter, and that this was only the latest proof of the total loss of confidence which the members felt in the management of the Association. Referring to Mr. Fardon's remarks, he expressed his regret, though not his surprise, that the officials had not immediately seized the opportunity of demanding that the charges made against them should be publicly inquired into. He reminded the meeting that this was the course adopted by the managers of another institution which had recently been attacked, and only one conclusion would be drawn by the public from the evident disinclination of the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association to face an inquiry into the serious charges made against them.

The report, after some desultory conversation, was then put to the meeting and adopted.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. John Langton, was then read as follows:—

FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

For the Three Months ending June 30th, 1897.

During the last quarter I have received the sum of £130 5s. 2d., and the expenses have amounted to £123 16s. 3d. Our bank balance, including the sum of £10 suspense account, is £152 5s. 5d., whilst our liabilities amount to £114. This sum is made up of the following items: Elkington, £1 7s. 11d.;

Hutchings, £33 15s.; Vestry Taxes, £34 os. 5d.; Rent and Water Rate, £64 12s.; and small accounts about £4, which includes illumination of Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

JOHN LANGTON, Hon. Treasurer.

June 30th, 1897.

Mr. Langton, in moving the adoption of the Report, explained that the liabilities were £137 15s. 4d. instead of £114 as stated, the figures having been added up incorrectly.

Dr. Fenwick considered that, putting aside the arithmetical mistake, it would have afforded more enlightenment to the members concerning the financial state of the Association if Mr. Langton had simply stated—not that the balance at the bank was £152 and that there were such and such liabilities, but—that, after paying all liabilities, there remained a balance of £4 10s. 1d. at the bank, and the sum of £10 on a suspense account.

A member remarked that Dr. Fenwick could only say this because he desired the accounts to look as bad as possible.

Dr. Fenwick replied that no member could approve of the wording of the report unless he desired the accounts to be made to appear much better than they really were.

The report was then adopted.

Miss Entwistle, who had the following Resolution on the Agenda, namely:

"To ask that the Executive Committee will enquire into and report on the hours usually worked per week by nurses in hospitals. And that the average number be ascertained of those who break down in the training schools annually; also of those trained nurses who break down after five or six years' work, and have to relinquish their profession,"

asked leave to postpone this proposal, and the Meeting having consented to this, the Resolution was dropped.

The proceedings then terminated.

The following letter has been addressed to the press:—

SIR,—We must request your permission to immediately contradict an assertion which appears in your columns to-day in a Report of the Council Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association held on the 9th inst.

Dr. Alderson is there reported to have "protested" against a document recently issued on behalf of our Council, to have said that prominent members of our Council agreed with him, and that no mention of the matter was on the Minutes of our Council.

The last assertion is entirely inaccurate and misleading. The Minute Book is open to Dr. Alderson, and in our judgment he should have satisfied himself as to its accuracy before making such a statement. On the previous day, the 8th inst., Dr. Alderson was present at a meeting of our Council, and if he desired to "protest" against our action, it would, we venture to think, have been more in accordance with custom if he had raised his objection where we could have answered it, instead of doing so at a meeting at which we were not present.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

HUGH WOODS, President,

FRANK GREAVES, Senior Hon. Sec.,

Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association.

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