

3. The action of the Executive Committee with regard to Miss Barlow.

4. That the Association has for the last three years been mismanaged, its expenditure being allowed to largely exceed its reliable income.

5. That the Association is practically controlled by five medical men. That opposition and criticism are stifled and free discussion is not allowed.

6. That the General Council is packed with nurses from the Middlesex Hospital and the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary, and that the officials have thus prepared for themselves a majority which is practically compelled to adopt any proposals they may choose to make, and that the paid servants of a public institution are employed by their superior officers for the fulfilment of private ends,

3. This matter formed the subject of a long and exhaustive discussion at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose, a full report of which was published, together with the resolution adopted by the members, and it does not appear necessary to re-open the subject.

4. The financial management of the Association was the ground of some remarks published in the journal in August, 1896, as to which an action for libel is now pending. It would, therefore, be improper to discuss this subject at present. The committee will be quite prepared to meet the charges at a suitable time.

5. No facts are given in support of this statement, and it is denied that there is any ground for the assertion. It is also denied that criticism or discussion, when carried on in order and with due regard to the courtesies of debate, is prevented. The circumstances under which a motion was ruled out of order by the Chairman at the last annual meeting have been fully published, together with the resolution adopted by the members, and discussed already. The action brought against the Chairman was dismissed with costs by the Divisional Court, who characterised it as frivolous and vexatious. A reference to the reports of meetings of the Council and members will show that speeches made in opposition to, and in criticism of, the action of the governing body have been very frequent.

6. The General Council is composed of more than 300 members—100 medical men and 200 matrons, sisters, and nurses, besides vice-presidents and a few other *ex officio* members. The 100 medical men and the 200 matrons and nurses have to be elected every year, and by the action of the Bye-laws nearly 70 matrons and nurses retire annually, and are not eligible for re-election for another year; this involves the election of at least 70 fresh matrons and nurses every year. The circumstances under which the General Council is elected are perfectly well known, and quite constitutional. The procedure is as follows:—A sub-committee is appointed by the Executive Committee to draw up a list of members to be nominated for election. This sub-committee enters into correspondence with many matrons of important institutions, such as hospitals, infirmaries, and co-operative societies, inviting nominations of suitable members. Having prepared a list, this is submitted to the Executive Committee, who are at liberty to criticise and alter it. It is then sent on to the Council, each member of which is supplied with the list of names at the meeting summoned to consider the nominations, and after it has passed the Council it is then sent to every member of the Corporation who is entitled to vote by ballot, either for the list as it stands, or to erase the names of any candidate they do not wish to vote for and substitute other names in their place. Last year the present Council was elected by a majority of 538. The statement contained in the Protest from the Central Council of the I.M.P.A., inferring that 34 paid servants belonging to the Middlesex Hospital and Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary are nominated for the forthcoming Council is incorrect and misleading. The Middlesex Hospital is represented by only sixteen nurses in the service of the hospital, and the Chelsea Infirmary by five, out of the full body of 200. Having examined the attendance at the Council meetings we find that during the past year the average attendance was 63, of whom 25 were medical men and 38 matrons and nurses. Out of that

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