

difficulties in administration. It is, for example, most important for the Association to possess the valuable aid and countenance of the leaders of the medical profession, and these can only be obtained by appointing those gentlemen to the permanent and honourable office of Vice-Presidents. They would not accept such an office if they were compelled to offer themselves every year for re-election, with the possibility that a chance majority at a small meeting of the Council might place on them the indignity of refusing to re-elect them. It is submitted that the proposed new Bye-Laws are uselessly verbose and redundant, and that the present Bye-Law with the addition of the words above suggested would be equally effectual.

SECTION B

Members of the Corporation.

1.—The election of Members shall take place at the ordinary meetings of the Executive Committee, and shall be decided by a show of hands or by ballot, as the meeting shall in each case determine. In either case, a majority of votes shall be decisive.

4.—No Nurse shall be eligible for election as a Member unless her name has been previously entered on the list of Nurses maintained by the Corporation.

Grave objections are felt to this provision as to Matrons or Superintendents being eligible for membership of the Association, without being enrolled on the list of trained Nurses maintained under the Charter. It is clearly calculated to frustrate the chief object for which the Association was founded—the protection of the public against untrained and ignorant women who pretend to be trained Nurses. The proposed clause is manifestly useless, unless it is intended to be actually employed. And to enable a person, who cannot produce sufficient evidence of training to be enrolled on the list of trained Nurses, to be admitted as a Member of the Association, is, therefore, to defeat the chief reasons which actuated Her Majesty's Privy Council in recommending the grant of a Royal Charter. It is suggested that this evil would not be made possible, and that the rest of the suggested alterations would be effected *if No. 4 of the existing Bye-Laws were rescinded; if No. 1 were numbered 2; and if the following were made No. 1. "Membership of the Corporation shall be open only to Registered Medical Practitioners, and to Nurses whose names have been entered on the list of trained Nurses maintained by the Corporation, or who have been registered under any Act passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, or by the Legislature of any British Colony."*

3.—The Subscription for Members shall be: for Medical Men, a Life Subscription of one guinea; for Nurses five shillings annually, or a Life Subscription of two guineas in one sum. All subscriptions shall be due on January 1st of each year, and the Executive Committee shall have power to remove from the Roll the names of Members whose subscriptions are two or more years in arrear.

VII.—The following persons shall be qualified for election as Members of the Corporation:—

Any duly qualified Medical Practitioner as defined by the Medical Acts.

Any person who is or has been a Matron or Superintendent of Nurses at any Hospital or Infirmary (provided the evidence of her training is considered satisfactory by the Executive Committee).

Any Sister or Nurse whose name is entered on the Register maintained by the Corporation pursuant to Bye-Law XXVI.

VIII.—The Executive Committee may at their discretion appoint any duly qualified persons to be Members of the Corporation.

IX.—The subscription for Members shall be: For Members of the Medical Profession Five Shillings annually, or a Life Subscription of Two Guineas.

For Matrons, Superintendents of Nurses, Sisters, and Nurses, Five Shillings annually, or a Life Subscription of two Guineas. The Corporation in General Meeting may from time to time alter and determine the amount of the Subscriptions to be paid by Members. All Subscriptions for each year shall be due on the first day of January.

The Executive Committee shall have power to remove from the Roll of Members of the Corporation the name of any Member whose Subscription is over two years in arrear, and such Member shall thereupon cease to be a Member of the Corporation.

The proposal to double the subscriptions due from medical men is clearly designed to deter them from joining the Association, and would therefore be most detrimental to its welfare. It is further submitted that these proposals are needlessly verbose, and are self-contradictory. If the subscriptions are determined by Bye-Law, they can only be changed by altering the Bye-Law—that is to say, the Corporation cannot of its own will alter the subscriptions. If, on the other hand, the Corporation is to be entitled to change the subscriptions without the sanction of the Privy Council, it is absurd now to fix the subscription by a Bye-Law which can only be rescinded by the sanction of the Privy Council. It is submitted, therefore, that the present Bye-Law protects the Members, is for the advantage of the Association, is not illogical, and is sufficiently explicit.

(To be continued.)

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