

*is the President of the Council; and if I am placed in a public position and it comes to my knowledge that a public official is not, in my opinion, fulfilling the written or moral laws of a body with which I am connected, I shall certainly publish the fact, in order to acquit myself of any personal responsibility."*

WE consider that Mr. Victor Horsley has done a great public service in claiming that it is the duty of persons appointed to positions of trust on public bodies, to claim the right to protest *publicly* against dishonourable dealing; and we claim further that a real breach of faith is committed, when such persons hush up unconstitutional and dishonourable proceedings.

THIS has been the attitude we have assumed in connection with our position in the Royal British Nurses' Association, and when a medical member expressed the opinion "that if we disapproved of the conduct of business we had better resign," we promptly replied "that those entrusted with public duties should expose and fight wrongs, and not condone them by silence or resignation." We were inspired by the same sense of professional responsibility which has actuated Mr. Horsley and which can alone elevate the conduct of public business, and effect progress and reform in professional bodies.

"SUPPRESSED."

IN this connection, it is important to know that communications which have been received at the Office of the Royal British Nurses' Association from the Privy Council in relation to the new code of Bye-Laws have been withheld from the knowledge and consideration of the Executive Committee, by the Hon. Officers. It is admitted that certain questions have been referred to the *Royal British Nurses' Association*, but, as usual, the Hon. Officers are dealing with this important communication entirely independently of the Executive Committee.

THAT the majority of the few Members of the elected Executive who attend its Meetings are prepared to support this official and unconstitutional autocracy is an open secret; but like Mr. Horsley, we consider it our duty to protest against being deprived of our legitimate responsibility and duties as a Member of the Committee.

"FROM SHEFFIELD."

MR. G. B. HUDSON has addressed the following letter to the *Lancet* :—

"THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NURSING.

"To the Editors of the '*Lancet*.'"

"SIRS,—I have recently received a letter from the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association enclosing an article reprinted from its official organ,

the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*, requesting me to vote for a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into "the whole question of nursing," which appears to include the midwives agitation and the trained nurses movement. A Bill was introduced into Parliament last session entitled "A Bill for the Registration of Midwives," and this Bill will probably be brought forward again this year, and doubtless the subject has already been fully considered by the medical profession. The reprint states that "a large number of trained nurses are asking for protection and some means of organization amongst themselves and control over their calling, and further, that the medical profession demand a public inquiry on the simple and conclusive grounds that the present state of affairs is fraught with the gravest injury and danger to the public." Now, Sirs, I constantly meet a large number of the medical profession, both in town and in the country, and I have never heard of any such demand expressed, but on the contrary those whom I have consulted on the matter deny that there is any demand at all. Thus I venture to write and ask your views as to whether you consider that the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association is entitled to speak authoritatively in the name of the medical profession? It appears from the circular that a Dr. Hugh Woods is the President, Dr. Bedford Fenwick the President of the Council, and Mr. Frank Greaves the Secretary—names that may be well known in the profession, but quite unknown outside of it to the general public.

The Royal British Nurses' Association, incorporated by Royal Charter, most carefully presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, and otherwise influentially supported, appears to me to do everything that is required for the protection of the public and for the nurses themselves against imposture by unqualified ones. I should feel grateful for your opinion as the matter will shortly come before us in Parliament.

"I am, Sirs, yours truly,

"January 28th, 1898. "G. B. HUDSON."

THIS ingenuous document has a strangely familiar ring to us. We ventured, therefore, to look into the "Medical Directory," for some solution to the mystery, and found that a gentleman of the name of Charles Elliott Leopold Barton Hudson is assistant surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital; but, of course, it is a mere flight of imagination to suppose that he is any connection whatever of Mr. G. B. Hudson, M.P. for Hitchin. We have taken the liberty of forwarding to Mr. Hudson, M.P., a few copies of the *NURSING RECORD*, marking the "Legal Matters," in which he will be interested to learn that murder, theft, drunkenness, prostitution, and cruelty, are crimes for which women calling themselves "professional nurses" have been accused and punished within the last year. So that, in spite of the opinion of those members of the "medical profession" with whom Mr. Hudson consorts in "town and country," we beg to inform him that "a large number of trained nurses are asking for protection" from association, in the mind of the public, with criminals, who at present prey upon that public, much to their danger and detriment.

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