

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

### THE NEW BYE-LAWS.

(Continued from page 115.)

#### EXISTING BYE-LAWS.

##### SECTION C.

##### *General Meetings of the Corporation.*

1.—The Annual Meeting shall be held in July or August of each year, in London, or in any town in the United Kingdom which the General Council shall decide upon as the most convenient for the purpose.

The chief practical difficulty created by Bye-Law X. is that few nurses have their holidays in May and June, and most of them, therefore, would be unable to attend the Annual Meeting, as many are able to do in July or August. There can be no other reason for the proposed change. Further, the important decision as to the place of meeting is taken out of the hands of the General Council and practically given to the Honorary Officers. The point is important, because it was originally promised, and has ever since been held out to provincial nurses as a reason for them to join the Association—and, until 1895, the pledge was fulfilled—that the Annual Meeting should always be held in a provincial town. For the last three years, this pledge has been broken, and the Meetings have all been held in London, for reasons which are well understood.

2.—Special General Meetings may be summoned at such times and places as may be considered suitable in each instance, either by order of the President, or by a Resolution to that effect passed by the Executive Committee, or in accordance with a request to that effect signed by fifty members of the Corporation. The notice convening a Special General Meeting shall state the object of the meeting, and no other business save that so specified shall be taken. Fourteen days' notice of every such Meeting, at the least, shall be given to every Member of the Corporation.

3.—No resolution shall be proposed at any Annual or Special General meeting, unless the full text of the resolution shall have been sent in writing, and by registered letter, to the Secretary, at least three weeks previously, for insertion upon the Agenda of the said Meeting.

#### PROPOSED NEW BYE-LAWS.

X.—The Annual General Meeting of the Corporation shall be held at such time in May or June of each year, and at such place as the Executive Committee shall appoint.

XI.—A Special General Meeting of the Corporation may at any time be summoned either by the order of the President or by a Resolution of the Executive Committee. A Special General Meeting of the Corporation shall be summoned by the Executive Committee, upon a request in writing, signed by at least one hundred Members of the Corporation then entitled to be present and vote at such Meeting. The request shall state the purpose for which the Meeting is to be held.

The notice convening a Special General Meeting shall specify the object of the Meeting, and no business except that so specified shall be considered.

XII.—Notice of every Meeting of the Corporation shall be sent to every Member, then entitled to be present and vote, at least fourteen days before the date of the Meeting.

XIII.—Every Special General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the President, in the case of a Meeting summoned by the order of the President, or as the Executive Committee, in the case of a Meeting summoned by them, shall appoint.

XIV.—A Resolution shall not be proposed at any Annual or Special General Meeting unless the full text of the Resolution shall have been sent to the Secretary at least twenty-one days previous to the date of the Meeting, and shall have been inserted upon the Agenda of the said Meeting.

The proposed change practically withdraws a most important right from the Members—that of holding Special General Meetings when such seem needful. This right has already been denied to the Members. In February, 1895, sixty-nine Members signed a requisition for such a General Meeting. That requisition was simply ignored, the Meeting was never held, and grave injustice was thereby caused. The British Medical Association, with 17,000 members, only requires a similar requisition to be signed by 100 members. The Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association probably do not now number 2000, and they are scattered all over the world. It would be practically impossible to obtain 100 signatures, therefore, to such a requisition, especially as the officials alone possess the names and addresses of the Members. This is a valuable proof of the manner in which the officials are attempting to obtain uncontrolled and unquestioned power over the Members.

(To be continued.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)