

Matrons would merely be the nominees of the officials, and removable as the latter pleased. The same objection applies to the thirty elected Matrons. The undeniable fact is, that at present the Matrons of many of the chief Hospitals in the Kingdom refuse to take any further part in the work of the Association in consequence of its grave mismanagement. If sanction were given to this Bye-Law it would merely enable the governing body to be reduced in numbers, and therefore be rendered more amenable to the dictation of the officials. By diminishing the influence and numbers of their representatives, the interest of the Members in their governing body would be naturally reduced, and the officials would, therefore, be rendered less subject to control than they are now.

3.—It shall meet in the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, or oftener if necessary, at such times and places as may be determined by its regulations for the time being in force.

4.—The Members of the General Council shall be annually selected by means of voting papers sent to all the Members of the Corporation, in accordance with the regulations of the General Council for the time being in force, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, which shall have power to fill up any vacancies which may have been caused, in the lists contained in the voting papers, by death or refusal to act. At least one-third of the Matrons and at least one-third of the Sisters and Nurses serving on the General Council, shall retire annually by rotation, and shall not be eligible for re-election until the following year.

XVII.—The Elected Members of the General Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation.

XVIII.—One-third of the Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, and one-third of the Medical Practitioners elected on the General Council at the first Annual General Meeting held after the date on which these Bye-Laws come into force, shall retire at the second Annual General Meeting held after that date, one other third shall retire at the third Annual General Meeting held after that date, and the remaining third shall retire at the fourth Annual General Meeting held after that date. The Members to retire at such second and third Meetings shall be selected by the Executive Committee by ballot. Members from time to time elected at the second or any subsequent Annual General Meeting held after the date on which these Bye-Laws come into force shall retire at the Annual General Meeting held in the third following year. A retiring Member shall not be eligible for re-election until the following Annual Election.

XIX.—The General Council shall meet at least once in each quarter, viz., in January, April, July and October. A Meeting of the General Council shall be held in each year not less than fourteen or more than twenty-eight days after the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation.

It is very important to observe that it is proposed by the officials to withdraw the right hitherto given to all the Members, by means of voting papers, to select their governing body. In other words the General Council in future will be nominated by the officials alone, subject to no controlling influence from the whole body of members as hitherto. This is a fourth proof of the attempt made by these new Bye-Laws to give autocratic authority to the officials. Bye-Law XVIII. is obviously redundant, and, as the major part of it would cease to be operative after two years, should not have been proposed as a Bye-Law—that is to say, as a permanent Regulation of the Corporation—at all.

(To be continued.)

Appointments.

MATRONS.

MISS A. B. BAILLIE has been appointed Matron to the Royal Infirmary, Bristol. She was trained at the London Hospital, and held the position there of Sister of Wards for four years. Miss Baillie was subsequently appointed Matron of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, which appointment she has held to the present time. The Royal Infirmary, Bristol, is a very important institution, containing 270 beds, with every clinical advantage for a first rate nursing school. The matron, if she elects to act, has, under the present Bye-Laws, an *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Miss Maud Smith, the retiring matron, was one of the fourteen matrons who had the honour of being named in the incorporation clause of the Royal Charter in 1893.

MISS ELIZABETH BOWEN, who was trained at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, has been appointed Nurse-Matron of the New City Isolation Hospital, Worcester. Miss Bowen has held the post of charge nurse and assistant matron at the General Infirmary, Worcester, for the last four years, previously to which she obtained experience in infectious nursing at the Infectious Hospital of Ormskirk Union.

SISTER.

MISS MAUDE BYGOTT has been appointed night sister to the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, in the place of Miss Lillie, who resigned the post after fourteen months good work. Miss Bygott was trained for three years at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, at the end of which period she was appointed Sister of the Children's Ward at that Institution, a post which she has held for the last two and a half years. Miss Bygott has excellent testimonials.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)