

Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE NEW BYE-LAWS.

(Continued from page 176.)

EXISTING BYE-LAWS.

SECTION G.

Trained Nurses.

1.—No Nurse's name shall be placed on the list maintained by the Corporation until she has produced such proof of professional education and moral character as the General Council shall from time to time prescribe, nor unless she makes application upon a special form supplied for that purpose. The words of this form may be altered from time to time by the General Council, but shall always have printed thereon the full text of Bye-Law 2 of this section, and each applicant shall sign her name to the said form of application across a legal contract stamp, and have the same duly witnessed, acknowledging the authority of the Executive Committee, and binding herself to return her certificate if called upon to do so.

2.—The Executive Committee shall have power to direct that the name of any Nurse who shall, after full inquiry, appear to a majority of two-thirds of a Meeting of the Committee unworthy to remain thereon, be erased from the list. But no name shall be erased for this cause except by order of a meeting specially summoned to consider the matter, and at this Meeting fifteen shall be the necessary quorum. Provided always, that any Nurse whose name it is proposed to remove shall have the right to appear in person or by proxy, to show cause why such erasure should not take place, and shall, moreover, have the right to demand that, before her name is erased, the matter should be referred to a Meeting of the General Council, whose decision shall be final.

An earnest protest is made against the duplicity of this attempt of the officials to secure the introduction of the word "Register." They are, of course, well aware that the Lords of the Privy Council, in 1893, refused, both in the Royal Charter and in the Bye-Laws, to sanction the use of that term. In the face of that definite pronouncement, the attempt to introduce the word into the new Bye-Laws is much deplored by the Members' Rights Defence Committee.

5.—In the case of any doubt arising as to the operation of any Bye-Law or Regulation, the matter shall be decided by a resolution of the Executive Committee, subject to appeal to the General Council.

XXVI.—The Executive Committee shall keep a Register of such persons as the Executive Committee shall think fit and proper persons to act as Nurses.

The name of a Nurse shall not be placed on the Register until she has produced such proof of professional education and moral character as may be required by the Committee.

XXVII.—The Executive Committee shall have the power to direct that the name of any Nurse be removed from the Register kept pursuant to the last preceding Bye-Law; but a name shall not be removed until after an inquiry has been held by the Executive Committee at a Meeting specially summoned to consider the matter, and a Resolution to remove the name, passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members present and voting, and, at such Meeting, fifteen shall be the quorum. At least fourteen days' previous notice of the Meeting shall be sent to the Nurse with regard to whom the inquiry is to be held, and she shall have the right to appear in person or by agent, to show cause why her name should not be removed. Any Nurse whose name the Executive Committee shall resolve to remove from the Register shall have the right to require the Executive Committee to refer the matter to the General Council at their next Meeting, and the decision of the General Council shall be final.

XXVIII.—In case any irregularity shall occur in the convening or holding of any Meeting of the Corporation, General Council, or Executive Committee, or in any election or other proceedings at any Meeting, and the same shall not be publicly noticed and objected to at the Meeting, all proceedings of such Meetings shall be of the same force and validity as if no such irregularity has occurred. If such irregularity shall be publicly noticed and objected to at such Meeting, the Meeting shall decide on the validity of such objection, and such decision shall be final and conclusive.

XXIX.—In case any question shall arise as to the construction or operation of any Bye-Law or Rule, the question shall be decided by the Executive Committee, subject to appeal to the General Council.

The Members have, unhappily, been compelled to complain so frequently of injustice and even of deliberate duplicity at the Meetings of the Association—and instances of which will be submitted and proved, if that be permitted—that by this Bye-Law, if sanctioned, the Members might be subjected to the gravest injustice and wrong—and no remedy would be left them. Serious irregularities have hitherto been prevented or amended. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to do so, if such absolute power to neglect the Charter and Bye-Laws were given to the officials as this Bye-Law provides.

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