

of that Augean establishment—the offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association. But if Mrs. Coster had possessed these necessary qualifications we may be quite sure she would never have been "nominated" for the vacant post of Nurse Hon. Secretary!

THERE is just at present much gossip abroad and many rumours concerning the affairs of the Society of Chartered Nurses. From one hospital we hear that one of the nurse members has addressed a letter of complaint to the Executive Committee, that she is provided with so few cases through the office. From another hospital it is reported that a nurse member has been blackmailing the medical men in connection with the Society; and yet again it is rumoured that on account of some complaint, made by a member, she was threatened with criminal proceedings by the committee, who have instructed solicitors to apply for a warrant for her arrest. The latter report is, of course, quite incredible, but that it has even been set abroad is sufficient to show that things are not altogether flourishing in Princes Street.

No surprise will be evinced by those who remember the disgraceful methods employed in the foundation of this Society—whatever transpires.

BUT we would make a few remarks concerning it from a professional point of view, and of which we would advise the five Matrons on the Committee to take note. It was an open secret that the majority of the then members of the Registered Nurses' Society were promised "that they would all be taken if they liked into the Chartered Nurses' Society without reference to the Committee" of the former body.

BUT we think the public and the heads of hospitals and nursing institutions generally will be somewhat surprised to learn that the Committee of the Society of Chartered Nurses still engage nurses upon their staff without reference to their late employers; and that they will agree with us that such a proceeding is absolutely destructive of all discipline amongst the private nursing institutions of the Metropolis; and at the same time most unjust both to the fully trained members of the Society and to the sick. The Register of Trained Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association, just published, is proof positive of this inexcusable conduct upon the part of the Committee of this Society.

WE would ask the Matrons of the Middlesex, the Royal Free, and Great Northern Hospitals, and the Chelsea Infirmary, who, with Mrs. Coster, represent the nursing interests upon the Society of

Chartered Nurses, if they adopt this remarkable lack of investigation in the selection of the nurses of the institutions in which they hold positions of public trust?

SOME person (who might spend her spare time to advantage in practising "strokes and pothooks") has thoughtfully bombarded the NURSING RECORD Office with copies of this week's Chelsea local papers. We thank her—but we make a point of seeing these particular papers.

THE *Chelsea Mail* devotes four columns to reporting the last meeting of the Chelsea Guardians—two of which give in detail a most amusing account of the question of "A Gratuity for Miss de Pledge."

As we reported on a former occasion, Miss de Pledge made an application to the Board asking for an honorarium in respect of extra services and increased duties. It was moved by Mr. Jeffery, and seconded by Mr. Cust, that no action be taken, whereupon an amendment was moved by Mr. Latter, and seconded by Mr. Blore, that the application be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration. The amendment was lost.

IN spite of this decision of the Board, the Finance Committee have recommended (omitting to place it on the agenda for the meeting) that Miss de Pledge should be awarded twenty-five pounds, and it was this questionable conduct of business that caused a hot personal discussion, on Wednesday, between Mr. Jeffery, who contested the legality of the recommendation, and another guardian, who is locally known as "The Matron's mouthpiece."

MR. JEFFERY pointed out that in the Infirmary there had been an increase of thirty-five officials since Miss de Pledge was appointed, and whereas her salary was at one time £80 a year, it was now £100. They found there was an increase of something like £1400 compared with the cost of the establishment four or five years ago, and in those circumstances it ill became the members of the Finance Committee to proceed in the irregular way in which they had. He asked the chairman if he intended to put the recommendation to the vote, considering that the Finance Committee was not directed to consider the matter, and because the matter was not mentioned on the agenda. It seemed as if they wished to smuggle the matter through without outsiders knowing anything about it.

MR. RILEY, as a member of the Finance Committee, said he should be pleased if the matter were sent back, in order that the atmosphere might be cleared. As to the extra work for which the

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