

Nursing Politics.

THE SUBVERSION OF NURSING DISCIPLINE.

WE stated last week that the Register of Trained Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association divulged the fact that nurses are taken on to the Chartered Nurses' Society without reference to their previous employers.

Now, we would draw the attention of hospitals and nursing institutions to the fact that if nurses are sent to the Offices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, for registration forms, with a view to becoming members of some Nursing Society, the officials attempt to dissuade them from carrying out their previous arrangements; and tout for the Chartered Nurses' Society, by advising them to join that body and giving them its address. The natural result of this inexcusable conduct upon the part of the paid officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, is the determination, upon the part of more than one private nursing society, to dissuade their nurses from becoming members of the Association, seeing that it is conducted with such an absolute lack of honour—and small blame to them!

AGAIN, it is becoming well known that certain medical members of the Committee of the Chartered Nurses' Society are so lost to all sense of professional etiquette and discipline, that they actually try to persuade nurses, whom they may meet in private practice, to leave their present employers and join the Chartered Society.

WE think it might be efficacious if these gentlemen were to overhear the remarks in which such conduct is condemned by honourable nurses:—"Put my head into that noose—rather not." "We know the little story of the spider and the fly." "We prefer to work for *gentlemen*," and so forth.

ANY WAY, the ethics of the Chartered Nurses' Society do not commend themselves to gentlewomen.

THE MENTAL NURSE QUESTION.

EIGHTEEN months ago, an irregular Sub-Committee, composed of the Hon. Officers and Dr. Outterson Wood, signed and presented a report to the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, recommending that male and female asylum attendants—without hospital experience—should be admitted to membership and registration "and have the same status in the Association" as thoroughly trained and certificated nurses. Of

course the "nominated" General Council airily consented to sell their birthright (as professional women) and obey orders.

THIS outrage—because no other word describes the suggested breach of faith with the nurse members of the Association—naturally aroused the most bitter opposition upon the part of those members who founded the Association—who worked for and won its professional success, and who naturally argued that an asylum attendant is not necessarily a trained nurse, any more than a chemist is a physician; and that if the former desired the status of a trained nurse, she must work for and deserve it. Moreover, these ladies resented the depreciation of their professional status by a few medical men of little or no professional standing, and the deprivation by the Hon. Officers of their right to discuss their own affairs in the Executive Committee.

THEY were compelled, therefore, to discuss them elsewhere, and with a freedom of language which was unmistakable—the result being that this gross injustice has, so far, never been carried into practical effect. But, from time to time, the Hon. Officers drop veiled hints that the matter is only deferred; so that, no doubt, when the infamous Code of new Bye-Laws is in working order, the object of the arch enemy of the Royal British Nurses' Association may be accomplished. We shall see.

ANYWAY, Sir James Crichton Browne, one of the most determined depreciators of women generally, always becomes splenetic when referring to this question, and it was with some difficulty that he curbed his proverbial insolence at the late Annual Meeting of Asylum Workers, when, in "playing to the gallery," he urged asylum attendants to steadily maintain their claim to be regarded "as a branch—aye, as the highest branch—of the great nursing profession."

THE very natural question presents itself—If Sir James Crichton Browne is convinced of the truth of this statement, why have not asylum attendants already been placed upon the Register of Trained Nurses, and admitted to the Trained Nurses' Association? The resolution of the infallible Sub-Committee still stands unrescinded on the Minutes of the General Council, and all the nominated Registration Board has to do—is to carry out the suggestion.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
A Guarantee of Purity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)