

their approval. The Sessional Lectures kindly delivered by Dr. Colman, Miss Mary Kingsley, and Miss L. Hamilton, M.D., have proved exceptionally interesting and attractive, the average attendance having far exceeded that of any other season. The Association is greatly indebted to these Lecturers for their kindness in giving their services for the benefit of the members. The committee have to report the successful commencement of a monthly issue of *The Nurses' Journal*. The first number was sent to all members free as before, but subsequent ones to subscribers only. Widespread satisfaction has been expressed among the members at the more frequent issue of the journal, and there is reason to believe that it will prove a valuable aid in carrying out the aims of the Association. There is already every prospect that the new journal will be entirely self-supporting, and the committee hope that all members will do their utmost to ensure its success by becoming regular subscribers. A valuable gift of books has been received from Lady Savory for the library. The committee are happy to announce that the library is now open for lending books to all members in the United Kingdom. During the winter informal gatherings of members and their friends have been held twice a month, at the offices in Old Cavendish Street. The committee desire to express their thanks to H.R.H. the President for graciously providing a piano for use on these occasions. In accordance with the wish of many of the nurse members arrangements have been recently made by which, on payment of a yearly fee of 1s., members may have their letters forwarded to them from the office address, 17, Old Cavendish Street. It is hoped this will prove a great convenience to members who have no permanent address.

This report having been proposed and seconded, Dr. Bedford Fenwick inquired upon what points the Privy Council had declined to sanction the Bye-Laws proposed by the officials of the Association. He thought he was right in believing that the three points he had raised at the General Meeting were exactly the three which the Privy Council refused. He would be corrected if he was wrong; but if he was right he would express his regret that the officials were once more proved to have acted foolishly in refusing to listen to advice. Had they done so, they would have spared the Association the expense, and themselves the humiliation, of holding another public meeting to confess they had been in the wrong, and that their critics had been in the right. With reference to the clauses concerning the *Nurses' Journal* he regretted that the officials had once more broken faith with the members. Without any authority, they had taken on themselves the responsibility of deciding to send the *Nurses' Journal* only twice a year to every member. Members who had joined since

1891 had been promised definitely in printed documents that they should receive as one of the very few benefits of membership the journal of the Association, post free, every quarter. He wished the officials to understand that by attempting to deprive the members of this right they were laying themselves open to very serious trouble, for members could compel them by law to fulfil the benefits promised to them.

Mr. Fardon replied that the Privy Council stated that the Bye-Laws had been legally passed by the Association last December, and that they only objected to three points—the Patron and Vice-Presidents must be honorary officers, the subscriptions must be settled by the Bye-Laws, and the word List must be used instead of the word Register. With regard to the journal, when the Association could afford it the paper would perhaps be sent again to the members, gratis.

The report of the Executive Committee was then adopted.

Mr. Gant proposed a vote thanks to the three Lecturers at the Sessional Meetings who had respectively discoursed on Egypt, West Africa, and Afghanistan. He did not explain what these subjects had to do with nursing, but was doubtless led by their irrelevance to a reminiscence of the late Prophet Elijah. He said the troubles in the Association had come like a cloud the size of a man's hand in the olden time, which was followed by a great rain. But Mr. Gant evidently then remembered either that the said rain was an unmixed blessing, or that the said blessing followed the annihilation of those who had brought ruin on their land, or that the said rain was followed by certain dramatic events to those who upheld the false prophets. Because, after mixing up the rain and the man's hand and the Association in hopeless confusion, Mr. Gant suddenly concluded by improving upon Holy Writ, and explaining that the cloud and rains had gone back to their original size.

The Chairman then called for nominations for the post of Nurse Honorary Secretary, and as the Nurses' Association has for the last year been devoid of that officer an embarrassing silence followed, until Dr. Bedford Fenwick reminded the officials that according to the Charter the nomination for this post must come from the Executive Committee. Thereupon, Mr. Fardon, on behalf of the Executive, nominated Mrs. Coster to the post, and in significant silence and with perceptible smiles the meeting accepted the nomination and then adjourned.

If the officials realised the absurdity of their position, when unofficial members are compelled at the Public Meetings of the Association to instruct them concerning the Rules and Bye-Laws of the body they profess to manage, they would devote some small attention to acquiring the necessary knowledge.

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