

Nursing Politics.

THE IRONY OF FATE.

THE last act in the tragedy of submerging the nursing element in the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association will take place on Tuesday, May the 24th, at 20, Hanover Square, when the new code of bye-laws drawn up by the Hon. Officers, as acceded to by their supporters, and revised by the Privy Council, will no doubt, be thrust through the meeting without any real discussion, as on the previous occasion.

It is a most curious irony of fate that this betrayal of the rights of the nurse members should take place on the very date, May the 24th, on which, five years ago, Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, President of the Association, announced, amidst the most profound emotion, that it had pleased "the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council" to grant the Royal British Nurses' Association a Royal Charter; a Charter moreover, granted under a Liberal Administration, which, by the accepted bye-laws, gave to the nurses large and liberal powers of self-government.

And on the 24th of May, 1898, the deplorable code of bye-laws which have emanated from the little clique of medical officials, will be thrust upon the Association, depriving the leaders of the nursing profession of the last vestige of power or authority in their own professional body, and placing trained nurses, for the time being, under the domination of a clique which has shown itself to be destitute of honour and principle.

A MEDICAL MONOPOLY.

As proof of this last contention the conduct of business at the last Executive Committee meeting on the 6th instant, is conclusive. The members were summoned, "To receive a communication from the Lords of the Privy Council, respecting the proposed new Bye-Laws, and to take such action thereon, as may be thought advisable."

This Meeting took place at 5 p.m., on Friday. How farcical any discussion on the subject was, we leave our readers to judge from the fact that the proposals of the officials were made in a printed document, and in less than twenty-four hours later that same document was received by the members through the post in the *Nurses' Journal*, proving distinctly that both the *Nurses' Journal* and the Agenda for the Special General Meeting, authorised by the Executive Committee, were in print and ready

for posting before they had been submitted to the consideration of the Executive Committee at all!

Nothing could more conclusively prove that the Executive Committee are the obedient servants of the officials, and how contemptuously the officials treat the governing body of the Chartered Corporation.

Red Cross Sisters.*

THE Red Cross Hospital, New York City, has been besieged of late with applicants for service by women anxious to serve their country here or to undertake the relief work in Cuba.

To each applicant two blanks are given to be filled out, one a certificate of former service, signed by the physician or surgeon for whom the applicant has nursed, and the other the following application for enlistment:—

1. Are you a graduate of any training school for nurses?
2. Name the school?
3. Is a hospital connected with the school?
4. Have you had practical knowledge of emergency cases?
5. If so, where?
6. Have you personally assisted in an operating room?
7. Have you personally assisted in major operations?
8. Have you personally assisted in visceral operations?
9. Have you personally assisted in preparing or handling instruments and surgical dressings for laparotomies?
10. Have you personally assisted in such operations? (Questions No. 4 to 10 refer to anti-septic work).
11. What cases have you usually nursed?
12. If not a trained nurse, what has been your occupation until now?
13. If not a trained nurse, what knowledge have you of attending the sick?
14. Is this application sanctioned by your parents?

The following summary of the necessary qualifications and requirements was also given to each woman who wished to become a Red Cross nurse:—

In order to become a sister of the Red Cross the applicant must be of unquestionable character and qualifications. Further, she must take the regular two years' and three months' training at the Red Cross Hospital, or present certificates from some reputable training school for nurses and take a six months' post-graduate course in methods specially applicable to war or other national calamity. At the expiration of the course, upon giving satisfactory evidence of requisite fitness, the candidate is graduated as a Red Cross Sister, and can thereafter act as such at home or abroad.

In cases of emergency nurses may be enlisted for the special need upon presentation of their

* From "The Trained Nurse."

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