

by a sub-committee, from which every leader of the nursing world was excluded—upon the resolution of Mr. Fardon and Miss Thorold—and composed upon their nomination of the hon. officers alone—deprives the “leaders of the nursing world” of their ex-officio seats on the Executive Committee—and subjects them to a yearly election by the Corporation to mis-called ex-officio seats on the General Council. The new bye-laws also provide that an equal number of matrons and nurses shall be elected on to the Executive Committee; the aim of this most usual arrangement is perfectly apparent, taking into consideration the utilization of the nurses on the Executive by the Hon. Officers during the past three years.

THE Sister of Sir Dyce Duckworth's ward, and at present the Sister of one of Mr. John Langton's wards, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, have been selected hitherto to represent the nurses. And, with what result? Naturally, these ladies have supported the policy of their medical officers (would any other course be possible?), and have supported the new bye-law depriving their own matrons of their promised seats on the Committees of the Nurses Corporation!

“If this has been done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?” The new Bye-Laws make it possible for ten nurses instead of one, working in wards under medical members of the corporation, to be brought up to *out-vote their own matrons* at the Executive Committee! So this is what Miss Foggo-Thomson and Miss Entwistle (the only representatives of the nursing profession on the editorial staff of our official organ) consider “re-constituting the Association on a broad basis, free from all party spirit and exclusiveness,” we venture to express the opinion, as a former Matron of the first Royal Hospital of the Empire, that never has so unscrupulous an effort been made to undermine the authority of our “leaders in the nursing world,” or, one which is likely to have more disastrous results to the welfare of the profession of nursing.

By depriving them of their ex-officio seats on the Executive Committee of their own professional body, a gross insult has been perpetrated by the hon. officers to the heads of the Royal Nursing Services and of the leading Nurses' Training Schools of the Empire; and it only remains to be seen how many of these women who have achieved the leading position in their calling are prepared to place themselves under the authority and dictation of gentlemen who have not attained equal success in their own profession.

How to Attain Greater Uniformity in Ward Work.*

MISS MARY M. RIDDLE, SUPERINTENDENT, CITY HOSPITAL, BOSTON, U.S.A.

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Generally speaking, the special ward duties assigned to nurses show a slight uniformity, in that we find them beginning early in their course with the simpler, but not less important ward work and going on to the more complex, gradually assuming more and greater responsibilities as the months go by.

In a few of the hospitals mentioned they are, at entrance given the care of a certain number of patients, and are expected to take the entire nursing charge of them under the direction of the head nurse or supervising nurse. In some they spend a great portion of their junior year in what might be termed general housework, including sweeping, dusting, the listing of patients' clothes, care of linen rooms, bath rooms, pantries, lavatories, mortuaries, and in making beds; going from thence to serving trays, giving baths, taking temperatures and pulses, while some senior or head nurse does the “charting,” as it is called.

Some there are that allow nurses in their first year the care of convalescents only; there are others that give training in the nursing of none but chronic cases; others that consider the first year nurse capable of having the care of anything excepting contagious or obstetric cases; some exclude her from a share in the work for surgical patients, while others prefer her exclusion from medical patients, and still others decide that she must not care for any critical case. One hospital gives a nurse all her night duty during the first year.

Thus she spends her junior year, and by her display of industry and energy therein, as well as by her class recitations and examinations, she is fully entitled to her place as a senior nurse, and enters upon her second year.

In those hospitals where she is from the beginning given the entire care of a certain number of patients, she finds her second year similar to her first, with this exception—that she is no longer under very close supervision, but must now in her turn take some responsibility in aiding and instructing junior nurses, and since she has done all kinds of work for one year (though possibly somewhat mechanically) she now does it easily and has the more time and energy to devote to thoughtful work, and become more scientific in her methods.

In those schools that make a great difference between the work of the first and second years,

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