

Nursing Politics.

THE members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who attended the Special General Meeting on May the 24th, passed, as we stated they would, Mr. Fardon's Bye-Laws, without one word of amendment, so it may be well to remind the profession generally of the coils in the halter with which the Hon. Officers have succeeded in strangling the liberties of the Royal Chartered Corporation.

MR. FARDON informed the Meeting that "he did not propose to recall the opposition which had attended every step of the way in framing these new Bye-Laws, but would rather congratulate the Meeting that in spite of the very important changes which were embodied in the new Bye-Laws and the strong opposition and obstruction offered to them, the alterations required by the Privy Council were of a comparatively unimportant nature."

Quite so. "The strong opposition" to wrong is our only hope in the future. The policy embodied in the new Bye-laws of depriving the Matrons of all power and authority in the Association has been acceded to, and in this connection it is important to note that, in appealing for our Royal Charter under a Liberal Government, the Privy Council accorded us a fair and just hearing, after which our Charter was granted, and the Bye-laws giving to the Matrons and Nurses the power of self-government were also approved.

Now under the authority of the Tory Government what has been the course pursued? Our Bye-Laws, entirely drawn up by the Hon. Officers, depriving us of nearly every professional privilege have been sanctioned, *and we have been denied our right to be heard by Counsel before the Privy Council!* Thus our rights have been filched from us in the most unjust and un-British manner. But this is but one more proof of the contempt with which it is *safe to treat the disfranchised.*

WE will deal this week with Mr. Fardon's new Bye-law No. VI., which, in our opinion, is worded in the most reprehensible manner in reference to the Matrons. It runs thus:—

VI. The following persons shall be qualified for election as members of the Corporation.

Any duly qualified medical practitioner, as defined by the medical acts.

Any person who is, or has been, a Matron or Superintendent of Nurses of any Hospital or Infirmary, upon production of such proof of professional education and *moral character*, as the Corporation shall from time to time prescribe.

Any Sister or Nurse whose name is entered on the list maintained by the Corporation, pursuant of Bye-Law 25.

Now it will be observed that any medical man, no matter of how shady a reputation, can thrust himself into our Association with impunity, but Mr. Fardon has inserted a new and stringent regulation for the Matrons.

THE Heads of our Training Schools for the future have not only to bring proof of professional education, but they have to submit proof of **Moral Character** as well. Mr. Fardon has not defined who is to be deputed "to give the Matrons a character," but we presume the *resident medical officer*. And, again, when we realise that for the future the Executive Committee is to be composed of an equal number of Nurses and Matrons, it will, no doubt, be a highly delectable experience for the "staffs" to inquire into the "moral character" of the superintendent of the hospital to which they belong!

It has been "noised" abroad that as soon as the women who won the Charter have been ousted, especially as the principles upon which the R.B.N.A. was founded have been foresworn by the hon. officers, that the Matrons of St. Thomas's and the London Hospitals are going to subject themselves to election. This assertion may be taken *cum grano salis*, but we are somewhat interested to learn upon what lines the nurse representatives of these establishments will satisfy themselves as to the moral rectitude of their Matrons. Mr. Fardon's policy of "suppressing the Matrons" has its farcical side. It is at the same time characteristically insulting.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

MISS LOUISA BRADSHAW has been appointed Matron of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, Dublin. Miss Bradshaw was trained at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, and has since held the post of Night Superintendent at the Nottingham General Hospital, in which institution she is a general favourite. Miss Bradshaw is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a Registered Nurse.

MISS ETHEL J. ATKINS has been appointed Matron of the Park Hospital, Hither Green, Lewisham, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Miss Atkins was trained and certificated at S. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has since held the appointments of Charge Nurse at the South-Western Fever Hospital, Sister at the City

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