

of the Matrons' Council, matrons, sisters, and nurses will be warmly welcomed to the meetings, and it is hoped that they will take part in the discussions which will follow the papers.

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BREAY.
(Hon. Sec. Matrons' Council).

"THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME."

To the Editor of "*The Nursing Record*."

May 31st, 1898.

DEAR MADAM,—Under the present circumstances, allow me to fully sympathise with yourself, and those who assisted you some years ago, in founding the British Nurses' Association.

It was a band of high-minded earnest women, experienced in the work that they sought to elevate into a profession for women, who then stood beside you. Alas! our Association has fallen into evil days! but, humiliated as we are made to feel by the rule of men, let none of us desert the Association, now a Chartered Corporation, to which under all circumstances it should be an honour to belong. Therefore, let us not desert our colours and weaken our cause by setting up minor Associations.

The Matrons' Council—with the men kept out—is likely to diffuse more knowledge of, and institute many more practical reforms in nursing, than the present male officials of Royal British Nurses' Association have any idea. So let us take things quietly, and wait until better times arrive for our misled, impoverished Royal British Nurses' Association.

Wishing you every success.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
ROSINA A. GRAHAM.

"WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY."

To the Editor of "*The Nursing Record*."

DEAR MADAM,—Surely members of the Royal British Nurses' Association are not going to submit to the New Bye-Laws. If so, what very poor specimens of Britishers we are, and how inconsistent. We bow our heads in passive submission before what we are fully conscious of being both unjust and unwise, and do so simply because we have not the spirit to resist, or, in other words, we are not *British* in the true sense that the word implies.

Supposing our country were governed on the same principle as that of the Royal British Nurses' Association the results would indeed be disastrous. Why not have our Association conducted somewhat after the manner of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada? Let delegates be elected from various quarters throughout the Kingdom. Certain times be specified for the meetings, and so arranged as to take place in different counties. I mean, let one session be in London, the following in Liverpool, then Birmingham, and so forth. Questions could then be properly discussed—new ideas and suggestions considered, problems propounded, etc. To me, such a course seems quite feasible, and would no doubt open out a way to better things.

The aim of every Matron or Superintendent of Nurses is, or should be for a higher standard of nursing, and it is quite true that if we wish "to attain greater uniformity in ward work," or in any other matter, it

can only be accomplished through uniformity of thought—and that can only be gained by open and intelligent discussion, which unfortunately the power holding community of the Royal British Nurses' Association appear to be dead against. A thousand pities too that such be the case. But need it be? Most decidedly, No. Experience teaches us that where there's a will, there's a way. So the course to follow is, find the way and then act.

Yours faithfully,
LILLIE WADDINGTON,
Matron, Brighouse and District Hospital,
June 1st, 1898. Yorkshire.

SUPPRESSING THE MATRONS.

To the Editor of "*The Nursing Record*."

DEAR MADAM,—I think even the most long suffering Matron will realise her position in the Royal British Nurses' Association at last. Having carefully read the schedule of New Bye-laws forwarded to me in the May number of the Journal, I observe with indignation that it is now compulsory upon Matrons—that is ladies with years of public work as Nurses, Sisters, and Superintendents of hospitals—to bring proof of "moral character" as well as professional education, and submit such proofs to the inspection of the Executive Committee—composed of Sisters and Nurses—before they can be admitted as members of the Chartered Corporation. I presume that this last deadly insult is of Mr. Fardon's initiative—and if any further proof were required to convince self-respecting Matrons and nurses of this man's unfitness to deal with our professional affairs, this surely will convince them. It is almost impossible to believe that this clause was permitted to pass without remarks from the Matrons present at the late Special General Meeting—as I see from the journal that Miss Scott, Miss E. M. Wade, and Miss Hogg were present. Of course, from those on the Executive Committee we only expect betrayal—they have sold us too often—over the question of State Registration—the professional standard of our Register—and last, but not least, in handing over the Royal British Nurses' Association as a happy commercial hunting ground to Sir H. C. Burdett. But that our nurses are to be placed in the position on the Executive Committee of enquiring into our characters—and deciding whether or no their own Matrons shall be permitted to join the Royal British Nurses' Association—is a most disgraceful and humiliating insult to every Matron in the Empire, and one, surely the most "expedient" will find difficult to digest. There is but one course for Matrons to pursue, and that is, to boycott the Association so long as Mr. Fardon, and his subordinates remain in power. I hope the Matrons will make a united protest, and resign in a body. It is high time.

Yours most truly,
INDIGNATION.

P.S.—I do not sign my name because a member of the Committee of this hospital has been "got at," and "we cannot afford to offend Royalty"!

[We must decline to be included amongst those Matron members of the Executive Committee who have so sorely betrayed their trust. The Minute books of the Association prove that we have never on one occasion permitted the nursing interests to be betrayed without a protest—as we intend to prove as soon as our connection with that body ceases.—Ed.]

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