

"During November and December, a Course of Demonstrations in Invalid Cookery has been in progress at the Offices of the Association, under Miss Earle, *Diplômée* of South Kensington. They have proved highly attractive, and the attendance has been satisfactory and is increasing.

"The Committee desire to express their great regret on the resignation of Mrs. Dacre Craven, who for nearly three years has rendered valuable service to the Association as Nurse Hon. Secretary.

"The duties of Secretary to the Corporation have, since the retirement of Mrs. Ranken, been discharged by Miss G. A. LEIGH, as Acting Secretary."

The adoption of this having been moved and seconded

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK asked whether it was a fact that Mrs. Dacre Craven resigned her office last June? and that since then she had not attended the Committees, nor acted as Nurse Hon. Secretary? If that were so, it was a strange example of the manner in which the affairs of the *Nurses' Association* were managed, that the one nurse official had not performed her duties for six months, and he asked why the fact had not been reported to the Council last July or last October?

Mr. PICK said that Mrs. Dacre Craven had withdrawn her resignation, and had only sent it in again now.

Dr. FENWICK said that in that case were they to assume that Mrs. Dacre Craven had consented for six months to fill the office without fulfilling its duties? And in any case, he asked why no nomination was now made to the vacant office, so that for another three months the Corporation of Nurses would be without a Nurse Hon. Officer? That one fact alone was most significant of the manner in which the nurses were prevented from managing their own affairs.

Mr. PICK said that in due course a nomination would be made to the vacant post.

The Report was then adopted.

Dr. BEZLY THORNE then moved the following resolution:—

"That having regard to the fact that Dr. Bedford Fenwick has formerly (sic) called the attention of the General Council to certain reasons which led him to resign the office of Treasurer, and to the fact that Dr. Fenwick has never laid those reasons in detail before the General Council, either at the time of his resignation or subsequently, the General Council request the Executive Committee to institute an inquiry into the circumstances referred to in a communication made to that body on the 2nd March, 1894, into the conduct of the business of the Association during the year preceding that date, and for as long a period subsequent to that date as the continuity of events may appear to require."

He made a long and rambling statement, from which it appeared that he considered the reasons given by Dr. Fenwick for his resignation were "inaccurate, misleading, and untrue from beginning to end." Hereupon Dr. Fenwick insisted upon Dr. Thorne reading his letter of resignation given to the Executive Committee on March 2nd, 1894, which he then did as follows:—

"I regret that I must notify to the Executive Committee that at the next meeting of the General Council I shall resign the office of Treasurer of the

Association so, that the Committee may be then prepared to nominate my successor in office.

"For many reasons, I should prefer to retire without publicly assigning any ground for that step, but in justice to the Committee, as well as to myself, I must now formally explain my reason and ask that this statement shall be placed upon the minutes of this meeting. I venture to recall to the memory of the Committee that, from the establishment of the Association until recently, I have been entrusted with the sole management of its finances; that in five years, out of our small income, not only were its working expenses met, but the Reserve Fund of nine hundred pounds was accumulated, in anticipation of our determination, sooner or later, to secure a Royal Charter. I am, therefore, able to give up my trust with the heavy expenses incurred for our incorporation completely covered, and with the Association, so far, successful and solvent.

"I only mention these facts because I desire to impress upon the Committee that these results have only been attained because I was given, until last year, entire control over the expenditure, and could, therefore, enforce the utmost economy consistent with efficiency, and the rigorous rule that all the expensive schemes of the Association should be made as nearly as possible self-supporting. For example, the *Conversazione* costs about £100 per year. For the four years during which I organized it, a profit of about five pounds was made; for the last two years the loss has been more than twenty pounds. The *Journal* costs about £150 per year; for the three years I edited it, a small profit was made. Last October, I was requested to give up all the work I did for the Association, except on financial matters, the Hon. Secretaries very rightly expressing their intentions, themselves, to carry out all the duties which formerly devolved upon the occupants of their office. But, after my resignation of the work of the *Journal*, they declined to undertake that work, and in consequence not only has much delay been caused, but it is certain that this, and subsequent numbers, will be issued at a considerable expense to the Association, and an expense which I have no hesitation in saying the present funds of the Association are quite unable to bear. The *Sessional Lectures*, which in previous years were arranged by the Hon. Secretaries in September, were last year organized too late to be properly advertised, with the result that the audiences have been very small and the expense to the Association unusually large. Finally, new expenses, which I hold have been altogether unnecessary, have been incurred. A member was accused of unworthy conduct, and instead of making her resign and return her badge by means of private pressure—as has been done in previous cases, without cost, and without any public exposure—the nurse was cited to appear before the General Council, expenses to the amount of £20 have been already incurred, and before her badge is recovered it seems very probable that further legal expenses may be necessary.

"Without going into any further details, I must point out that the losses during the last three months to which I have alluded will amount to more than £60—that is to say, to one quarter of the whole assured income of the Association. Over this greatly increased, and, as experience proves, quite unnecessary, expenditure, neither I nor the Committee have any control. With an income of £250 a year from annual subscriptions, it is impossible to meet such additions to the ordinary

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