

are, therefore, acting quite consistently in describing Mr. Fardon as THE Honorary Secretary of the Association, and no surprise can be felt at their omission of the name of one whom they regard as a nonentity, from the list of officials.

There are a few Hospital Matrons who seem surprised that Mrs. Coster should condescend to occupy such a position. But they are, perhaps, unaware that this lady, together with Miss Wedgwood and Mrs. Dacre Craven, only joined the Association when it had achieved success and won its Charter, and that these three ladies, who did nothing to help the Association in its time of need, have since then immortalised their names by giving away the liberties and privileges which the nurses had won for themselves. They can hardly be surprised, therefore, at the manner in which they are now regarded by their colleagues. It is, however, passing strange that Mrs. Coster, who has held a position of some respect and influence in the Nursing world, can reconcile herself to occupy an office which is so publicly and contemptuously ignored by her colleagues.

The fact that Mr. Langton is accorded, in this published list in the *Nurses' Journal*, the degree of M.D., which he does not possess, while he is not credited with the diploma which he does hold, is only another evidence of the carelessness or ignorance of the Editors of the *Nurses' Journal*.

Passing on to the list of the Elected Members of the Executive Committee it is noticeable that the medical members consist solely of those gentlemen who have taken the most active part in ousting the leading nurses out of the government of their own Association, and in causing the Association to break its deliberate pledges and agreements.

It is quite unnecessary to discuss their position in their own profession, because eminent and successful medical men are much amused that they should openly advertise that the public so little recognise and value their talents that they are free to devote themselves to manage the affairs of women in the Nurses' Association. These gentlemen must be strangely lacking in humour not to realise the amusement they are causing to their professional brethren, to the nursing world, and to an increasing number of the public. In this connection, it is only necessary to point out that, out of the ten medical men, three are attached to the Middlesex Hospital.

Then we come to the Matrons' list. Formerly, this comprised the names of past and present Matrons of the leading Metropolitan hospitals who are now conspicuous by their absence. In order even to produce a list, the Matrons of three Poor Law Infirmaries, of three little Nursing Homes, of two small special hospitals and of an asylum have been scraped together, and with Miss Wedgwood, of the Royal Free Hospital, make the necessary ten. No more crushing condemnation of the Thorne-Fardon policy, no more conclusive proof of its abject failure, could be advanced than this pitiful list of so-called "Matrons."

Finally, we come to the Sisters and Nurses' list. Prominent on this, are the names of two Sisters at St. Bartholomew's Hospital—Miss Bramwell, of Matthew Ward, and Miss Mabel Sleigh, of Lucas Ward—wards which are under the charge of Sir Dyce Duckworth and Mr. John Langton, the two members of the staff of that hospital who have served under the Middlesex clique in their recent and present proceedings. We are informed that, just as the leading members of the St. Bartholomew's staff have conspicuously held themselves aloof from the procedure of bullying women in their own Association, so the Sisters and Nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital are not in sympathy with the two members of the nursing staff who have permitted themselves to be placed in a very false position. Because, both Miss Bramwell and Miss Mabel Sleigh must be aware that it is their duty to take part in considering, under the new Bye Laws, whether their superior officer—the Matron of their Hospital—shall be recognised as a fit person to be offered a seat upon the General Council of the Association—a duty which we regard as not only deplorable, but most detrimental to all hospital discipline. The other names on this list are quite sufficient comment and condemnation of the choice made by the officials of persons to represent the nurses in their own Association.

We have, on several occasions, called attention to the manner in which the present officials of the Association have attempted to destroy the influence of Hospital Matrons; and these latter ladies, throughout the country, could hardly be supplied with a better object lesson than the constitution of the present Executive Committee, and the class of persons who, according to the new Bye Laws, have to decide which Hospital Matrons shall be recognised by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

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