

**Annotations.**

**SUPPRESSED.**

We stated in our issue of July 16th that a number of Matrons, many of whom took an active part in founding the Association, and who worked with devotion for the Royal Charter, had resigned their membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and had requested that their letter, stating the reasons for their resignation might be inserted in the forthcoming issue of the Nurses' Journal. It is a matter more for regret than for surprise that the officials have "suppressed" this letter. We are also informed by more than one of the resigning Matrons that their resignations have not even been acknowledged by the Acting Secretary of the R.B.N.A.—a matter of business which it is reasonable to suppose the Secretary is engaged to discharge. No further comment is needed from us as to the contempt with which the Matrons—several of them being so influential in the nursing world that they were named in the Incorporation clause of the Royal Charter—are treated. We have much pleasure in printing below the suppressed letter:—

**TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.**

We, the undersigned, past and present Matron Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, herewith resign our Membership, and we do so upon the following grounds:—

1.—We strongly condemn the manner in which the affairs of the Association have been conducted since the granting of the Royal Charter, especially in the extravagant expenditure of funds, which has made us dependent upon charity for the payment of our debts, our expenditure having been for five years past beyond our reliable income.

2.—We decline to be made responsible for the dishonourable breach of faith with the Founders of the Association, whereby they have been deprived of the ex-officio seats promised to them upon the Executive Committee and General Council.

3.—We strongly condemn the manner in which the governing body of the Association has been packed with the members of the Medical and Nursing Staffs of the Middlesex Hospital, who have subserviently supported the policy of the Hon. Officers, and brought our once honoured Association into public disrepute.

4.—We deeply deplore the fact that the Association has, by its official representatives, repudiated the principle of State Registration for Nurses, which we joined the Association in order to obtain.

5.—We strongly disapprove of the manner in which the new code of Bye-Laws was drafted by a Sub-Committee, composed only of the Honorary Officers, and from which the Matrons of the Nurse Training Schools were excluded by a resolution proposed by Mr. Fardon and seconded by Miss Thorold of the Middlesex Hospital.

6.—We most strongly disapprove of the new Bye-Laws, which deprive the Nurse Members of rights and privileges, granted to them under the Bye-Laws of 1893, and we decline to submit to a constitution which we consider subversive of all discipline in the management of the Nursing Department in the Nurse Training Schools. We, moreover, consider that under the new Bye-Laws, there is no hope of liberty of conscience, or liberty of speech for Nurse Members in their own Association, and we, therefore, decline any longer to submit to the indignity of belonging to an Association conducted on such lines.

It is, nevertheless, our intention to continue to work for the principles for which the British Nurses' Association was originally founded, and which, we consider, have been betrayed by the Hon. Officers and their supporters.

We request that our letter of resignation be inserted in the forthcoming issue of the Nurses' Journal.

C. M. BEACHCROFT, County Hospital, Lincoln.

E. M. BEACHCROFT, Glentworth, Edgar Road, Margate.

LOUISA BRADSHAW, Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook, Dublin.

MARGARET BREAY, 46, York Street, Portman Square  
HANNAH BREWERTON, English Hospital, Zanzibar, Central Africa.

F. M. BRIDGES, Borough Hospital, Birkenhead.

ANNIE E. BROWN, Sanatorium, Little Hallam, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

CLARA L. BUTLER, Samaritan Free Hospital, Marylebone Road.

E. J. CARTWRIGHT (late Matron New Hospital for Women, Euston Road.)

SOPHIA E. CARTWRIGHT, 6, New Cavendish Street, W.

BARBARA CHAPMAN, Charing Cross Convalescent Home, Limpsfield, Surrey.

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