

hospitals, infirmaries, and institutions containing 200 or more beds, and maintaining the three years' system of training, as may be selected by the General Council." We imagine that the present list would not include half-a-dozen names of the Matrons so qualified to take a seat, and who have consented to accept the questionable position which they would hold under the present Bye-Laws. As a matter of fact indeed, we have good reason to believe that the present officials not only have not yet received, but also that they never will receive the support of the leaders of the nursing profession, any more than they are now receiving the approval of leading medical men.

The list of those whom they have been able to persuade to allow themselves to be elected either on the General Council, or on the Executive Committee, has aroused unlimited ridicule throughout the country. With reference to the Executive Committee, the position is still more important, because, under the new Bye-Laws, the Committee is given absolute control over the Register, and the character of the persons composing that Committee becomes, therefore, a matter of vital importance to the nurses who place themselves and their professional position under such authority. We are informed that more than one Nurse-Member of the Association has expressed the opinion that she cannot, consistently with any self-respect, continue as a member of the Association, and therefore subject to the control of certain members of the Executive Committee. In fact, it may very probably become our duty, in due time, to publish facts, proving that at least one member of the body entrusted with the control of the Register of Nurses, is quite unfitted for such responsibility.

A matter to which we desire at present to direct attention is that it devolves upon the Executive Committee to advise the General Council as to the choice of the Matrons who shall be eligible to sit as *ex-officio* members upon that Council; and that upon the Committee as now constituted, a very considerable voice in that selection is given to Sisters and Nurses. In other words, the choice of Matrons to sit on the governing body of the Association is by this system of topsy-turvydom, taken out of the hands of Matrons, and given to their subordinates in the Nursing world. It must be remembered that this is no hole and corner affair, but affects the government of the Royal

Corporation of Nurses. The fact is known and commented upon throughout the Kingdom, and Mr. Fardon, Mr. Langton, Sir James Crichton Browne, and their friends, must be strangely ignorant of the comments which have been aroused, if they are not aware that such a reversal of the ordinary position of leaders and subordinates—of matrons and nurses—has been entirely condemned, as destructive of hospital discipline, and detrimental to the harmonious relations which have always hitherto existed between hospital Matrons and their nursing staffs, and that the blame for the results which must follow, is being naturally ascribed to them.

We are quite satisfied now to let matters progress to their inevitable end—to the universal public and professional condemnation of the Thorne-Fardon clique—and to the final disappearance of those who have done such harm and injury.

But we would point the moral to hospital Matrons, and urge them once more to combine with their colleagues in order to protect their just rights and privileges; to maintain their disputed authority in the Nursing Schools, and thus to maintain harmony and discipline within the ranks of their profession. It is their duty, as the leaders, to bestir themselves on this occasion, and they fortunately have the means ready at their hand. The Matrons' Council already includes about one-fifth of the hospital Matrons of the United Kingdom, and we would advise all Matrons now to secure its membership without delay, and so to obtain that strength and protection which Union alone can give. Full particulars concerning the Matrons' Council can be obtained by writing to the Honorary Secretary, Miss Breay, 46, York Street, Portman Square, London, W. American Matrons, have in large numbers, joined their Association and made it the natural representative union of the Nursing profession in the New World. We earnestly hope that British Matrons will follow their example, and achieve even a greater measure of success, power and influence.

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A LAW has been passed by the State of Connecticut forbidding any man or woman imbecile or feeble-minded, to marry under forty-five years of age. The penalty for infringement of this law is imprisonment for not less than three years. Persons aiding and abetting are also liable.

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