

Nursing Politics.

WE are glad to observe that our protest against retaining women as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who have proved themselves to be quite undeserving of trust has, in the case of the late Matron of the Windsor Infirmary, borne good fruit.

In the current issue of the *Nurses' Journal* it is stated: "Miss Helen E. Court, late Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Windsor, has resigned her membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association." So far, so good; but this does not alter the fact that Miss Court was nominated by Mr. Edward Fardon as a representative Matron, to fill one of the now very limited positions on the General Council of the Corporation. And her conduct justifies all that has been said concerning the type of woman selected by Mr. Fardon, and thrust, by the votes of his subordinates, on the Governing Body of the Royal British Nurses' Association—one of the discreditable proceedings which compelled the resignation of those Matrons and nurses who were determined to maintain their self-respect.

BUT there is at least one notorious character whose name disgraces the roll of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and concerning whom the Hon. Officers and Executive Committee have had ample proof of criminal conduct, but who is, nevertheless, permitted to remain a member and to contaminate the Corporation. We hope that, in the next issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, the information will be forthcoming that this person has also been called upon to resign.

THE Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal* have "suppressed" the letter addressed to the Executive Committee for publication—sent by some twenty-nine leading Matron members, giving their reasons for resigning their membership of the Association—one more proof for the necessity of honourable women severing their connection with a body conducted upon such dishonourable methods. We are not surprised, however, that the Hon. Officers dare not publish the Matrons' letter.

AND then—taking into consideration the intolerable insults to which these ladies have been subjected by the Thorne-Fardon policy—it is calmly suggested that Local Centres of the Association should be formed. Where?

COUNTRY Matrons have had their lesson, and a very bitter lesson it has been; and the majority of them have resigned their membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association, because, in plain English, they decline to be bullied and insulted by Sir James Crichton-Browne, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Mr. Fardon, and their little henchmen. Is it likely, therefore, that these ladies will encourage Local Centres of the Association formed on Fardonian lines? We think not; and moreover, we have no hesitation in saying that should this narrow, mischievous, and intolerant little clique of Metropolitan medical busybodies succeed in sowing dissension between Matrons and nurses in the country, after the "Middlesex" methods, there would not be a rag of discipline left in their respective training schools at the end of six months.

THE determined policy inaugurated by Dr. Bezly Thorne, and so trickily played by the present Hon. Officers of the Nurses' Association, was perfectly apparent from the first. The total alteration of our Bye-Laws has placed all nurse members, including Matrons, under the absolute authority of the Hon. Officers and their nominees; and it is this control by men of the professional liberty of women which places the latter in a dangerous and most false position. At present, there is but one attitude for those who are determined not to submit to this tyranny, and that is to oppose, root and branch, the insidious and demoralizing influence of the unscrupulous persons who have filched our professional liberty from us.

THE Matrons of the great Metropolitan Hospitals now generally discourage their nurses from placing themselves under "Middlesex" control; and those country Matrons and nurses who value harmonious professional progress, such as exists at present in in all well-organized provincial hospitals, will think twice before they help to construct *Local Centres* which will inevitably be turned against themselves.

NO! Organization of the Nursing profession is coming, but not by the methods advocated by Messrs. Thorne, Fardon & Co. Nurses must work out their own salvation, and this can only be done on just and representative lines. Let us have Local Unions of Nurses by all means, but such Unions must be free to depute their own delegates, those delegates must voice the needs and the demands of trained nurses, and not be nominated by, nor vote to the order of, any unscrupulous persons who desire to exploit the nursing profession.

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