

died." The latter figures we totally disbelieve, inasmuch as we ourselves know of more than thirty members who have resigned; but the General Council can hardly feel surprised if they are not told the truth concerning the affairs of the Association they are supposed to govern. On the officials' own showing, however, the Council were not informed that the thirty members, alluded to, were Matrons of important institutions throughout the country, including ladies of the highest position in their profession, and several of whom were in consequence selected to have their names placed amongst the fourteen mentioned in the Incorporation clause of the Royal Charter. On the other hand, so far as we have observed, none of the forty-seven ladies, who have joined the Association during the six months, hold any position of importance in their profession. Mr. Fardon has deliberately kept these crucial facts from the General Council, which is only the latest instance of the manner in which it is deceived.

The officials are evidently beginning to discover the grave censure which is being passed upon their conduct, throughout the nursing world, and to comprehend the crushing manner in which gentlewomen are declining to be associated with them any longer; because they are exhibiting their loss of temper in their customary foolish and most undignified fashion. It is reported that "Sir James Crichton Browne said that arrears in subscriptions could be recovered in a Court of Law, and that it was possible to refuse a resignation if the subscriptions had not been paid up to date. Proceedings to recover the debt might therefore be taken against the resigning members who had not yet paid in full." Such remarks as these may appear to many to be incredible, but we recognise their ring and can quite believe that they were actually uttered. We congratulate those Matrons who had the wisdom to decline to be associated any longer with such methods of management, and call the attention of those who have still retained their membership to the threat now so officially made that, if they do not continue to supply the funds for the officials of the Association to squander, legal proceedings may be taken against them. The Royal British Nurses' Association was founded by ourselves in order to enable trained nurses to unite together for their mutual aid and comfort, and not for the purpose of enabling nobodies to advertise and aggrandise themselves.

Sir James Crichton Browne and his friends have tried to alter that, but we confidently predict that they will fail in the future, as they have egregiously failed so far. Witness their furious ill-temper—even now. Witness this particular threat by Sir James Crichton Browne, that those who omit to send their subscriptions shall be dragged into a law court and compelled to do so. It may be said, of course, that the threat was only another example of the foolish remarks this gaseous gentleman makes; but that such a threat should be made at all is an excellent object lesson for the members as to the present management of the Royal British Nurses' Association; and it may be remembered what a very pitiable figure the threatener himself exhibited, not so very long ago, in the City of London Court. His desire to drag Nurses into a County Court, we fancy must have been dictated by his own unpleasing reminiscences. Leaving this, however, aside, no honourable man will approve of such a threat addressed to the women members of a woman's Association. We shall watch with some curiosity to see how many nurses will protect themselves against any further similar threat, and against the possibility of being thus dragged into a court of law, by immediately resigning their membership of the Association. At any rate, not one of them can plead hereafter that the officials have not given her the clearest notice of the manner in which they consider that nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association should be treated.

Annotations.

CHALK OR CHEESE?

THE question as to who shall be the future President of the Midwives' Institute is at present under discussion, and is, undoubtedly, a most momentous one to the members. At a conference of club members, recently held at the Trained Nurses' Club, the question was considered, and the views of those members who were present ascertained.

One point which was discussed was whether the election of a President be for one year only, or whether the retiring President should be eligible for re-election at the end of that time. The general opinion was in favour of the office being held for one year only. A point which aroused much discussion was whether the

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