

Nursing Politics.

THE REGISTER OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

As an inset in this month's *Nurses' Journal*, those whose names appear on the Register received a letter from the Registrar, enclosing a slip for correction, so that Mr. Fardon's most ill-judged proposition, that such slips should not be sent annually, has already been proved a most unbusinesslike blunder. Acting upon Mr. Fardon's advice last year, the Register appeared without correction, and was, in consequence, cram full of mistakes and most unreliable.

THE "OFFICIAL ORGAN."

Talleyrand remarked that "Speech was given to man to conceal his thoughts," and from the official reports of the Royal British Nurses' Association business, which appear in the *Nurses' Journal*, we imagine that this publication is printed to conceal from the members the truth about their affairs.

THE EDITORIAL

opens with the words "It is a significant fact that during the past month the names of 150 members have, by the instructions of the Executive Committee, been removed from the roll of members for being over three years in arrear with their subscriptions." It is equally significant that the names of these members are suppressed in the *Journal*, and not reported to the Governing Body, as they should be. Then follow three columns of bluff, attempting to prove that the policy of the Honorary Officers is not responsible for the fact that hundreds of the members are failing to pay their subscriptions.

The fact remains, that just so long as women give financial support to the Royal British Nurses' Association—a women's association governed by men—just so long will they find themselves treated with the injustice and contempt which has culminated in the legalising of the insulting new Bye Laws. If Mr. Fardon and his friends mean to govern the Nurses' Association, then let them find the money to do so, and let all self-respecting women contribute what they can afford in support of a professional organisation in which they will have liberty of conscience and of speech.

Meanwhile, members should not allow their membership to lapse by non-payment of subscriptions, but should resign formally, and give their reasons for so doing.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.

We have pointed out before that those present at a General Council Meeting of the Royal British

Nurses' Association would not recognise the proceedings as reported in their "official organ," and the reports given in the *Hospital*, and in the *Nurses' Journal*, of the late Council Meeting, amply prove our contention. In the official organ, of course, all reference to the characteristic threat of the Chairman, Sir James Crichton Browne—"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 resigning members who had not yet paid in full"—is studiously suppressed, and in its place we read: "The Medical Hon. Secretary proceeded to comment on the letters of resignation, sent in to the last Executive Committee, of twenty-nine Matrons, in consequence of their dissatisfaction with recent changes in the constitution of the Association. He quoted a passage, in which these ladies stated their disapproval of the extravagant management of the Association during recent years, 'which has made us dependent upon charity for the payment of our debts,' and stated that in the teeth of this very complaint more than half of these ladies were actually in debt to the Association for their own subscriptions."

How Fardonian! To pick out a few words of a grave protest made by Matrons holding high positions, and attempt to twist these in to support his own feeble arguments. We ask Mr. Fardon why he has suppressed the Matrons' Letter of Resignation, which they requested might be printed in the *Nurses' Journal*, giving their excellent reasons to their fellow members for severing all connection with what was, and ought still to be, their one professional Association. Many of these ladies have been protesting for years against the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association by "Middlesex methods," and that they have declined to support the jobbery financially, proves their common sense.

We observe that no Nurse Hon. Secretary was present to take part in the business of the General Council Meeting, and that, as usual, the whole of the business was conducted by men. A man was in the Chair—a man presented the Financial Report—a man presented the Executive Committee's Report, two men proposed the members to fill vacancies on the General Council, and with the exception of a request by Miss Entwisle, that the list of the Matrons who had resigned should be read to the meeting (a little formality which Mr. Fardon would have dispensed with), the whole of the business, of this so-called *Nurses' Association*, was conducted by medical men!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)