

Council. When Miss Entwisle brought the matter up at the Council Meeting, Sir James Crichton Browne, who was in the chair, held that "no irregularity had occurred." Of course he did. Sir James Crichton Browne may at least be counted upon to support any action of the Hon. Officers, however autocratic or unjust it may be, and this matter was, from their point of view, especially important. The new Bye Laws were thrust through in order to effect the subjugation of the nurse members in their own Association to the medical element. They were made for that purpose. Obviously a necessity of the first importance is for the control of the journal to be in the hands of the Hon. Officers. An independent editor can by no means be sanctioned. She might give vent to sentiments which it would be eminently undesirable for the nurse members to hear. The journal must at all costs be manipulated. This, no doubt, was most easily effected by making the post a paid one (paid officers being appointed by the executive committee), and by appointing as editor the paid secretary of the Association, who, receiving her salary from the Hon. Officers, is not likely to entertain opinions uncongenial to them, and who may therefore be relied upon to edit the journal under their direction. But it must be noticed, first that this paid editor has been appointed—her salary being paid out of the nurses' money—without any reference to the governing body of the Association; and secondly that the nurse members are now paying, to edit their professional journal, and to guide their opinions on professional matters, a person who is not a nurse, who has no expert knowledge of nursing education and nursing politics, and who cannot therefore enter into their aspirations and wishes. We imagine that the medical men who have made this arrangement would have something to say if their own journal were edited by an amateur, but in the case of the nurses, professional feeling is invariably discouraged. For instance, the Chartered Nurses' Society, the special darling of the Hon. Officers, is managed by a Secretary who has never had a day's training; the posts of Secretary and Registrar are given similarly to untrained persons, and now the Secretary is to be paid, in addition to her present salary, a further sum for editing the *Nurses' Journal*. It will be remembered that, five years ago, Mr. Brudenell Carter desired the former appointment for his own step-daughter. We objected at the time to so

undesirable an arrangement; and eventually it was not carried out. Now, however, the Hon. Officers having protected themselves by the new Bye Laws, naturally avail themselves of the privileges they have so carefully secured. If the shoe pinches at times, the members who helped to shape it have only themselves to thank.

Annotations.

A PROFESSIONAL PROTEST.

COLUMNS of first-page advertisements of the *Café Chantant*, to be held at the Hotel Cecil next week "in aid of the Royal British Nurses' Association," have appeared in the press during the past week. As the representative organ of the nursing profession, we should fail in our duty if we did not protest against this method of pauperising trained nurses, and thus depreciating them as a class in the estimation of the public.

Educated trained Nurses desire to remain, in the opinion of the public, a self-supporting, and, in consequence, a self-respecting class of professional workers; and they indignantly protest against the hon. officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association utilizing their professional association to extract charitable support for their own mismanagement. If Mr. Fardon and his colleagues drag the Nurses' Association into debt—as they have done for years—let them pay for their own incapacity. Why should the public pay, especially when the best class of Nurse condemns Mr. Fardon's management root and branch. With the open competition of the ignorant and half-trained Nurse, encouraged by the granting of—one year's—certificates from the hospital with which Mr. Fardon is connected, and the blemishing of the uniformed "Masseuse," trained Nurses find it quite sufficiently difficult to maintain any professional status at all. And if their Chartered Corporation is to be openly supported by *Café Chantant* charity, they will soon be divested of their last rag of public respect.

Moreover, because Royalty is patronising the entertainment, we do not hesitate to condemn its patronage as unwise, nor to state that, in our opinion, in exposing Royalty to this adverse criticism, the hon. officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association have shown themselves destitute of true loyalty and faithful stewardship.

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