

## Nursing Politics.

### "OFF WITH THEIR HEADS."

THE "White Queen" of immortal fame in "Alice in Wonderland" is an excellent prototype of the official government of the R.B.N.A. A person, or policy, becomes personally obnoxious to the hon. officers, and, heigh presto! he, she, or it, is removed, and the resignation of Miss Isabella Entwisle from membership of the Association is so significant of what independent members may expect if they dare to express an opinion in opposition to that of the "powers that be," that we referred to it at length in last week's issue.

In this month's issue of the "officials' organ" the voting paper of the General Council is enclosed, and it is interesting to find Miss Entwisle's name was not "nominated" for re-election, but is amongst the ten names of Sisters and Nurses who are compelled to retire. *Cela va sans dire!*

### TOUJOURS PERDRIX.

DISSECTION of the voting paper is interesting. According to the new bye-laws ten medical men retire, and amongst them we find the name of one member of the Middlesex staff; but amongst Mr. Fardon's new nominations, *three* members of the medical staff of that hospital are inserted: Dr. Duncan, Dr. J. Pringle, and Mr. John Murray, which, with Mr. Pearce-Gould and Mr. Fardon, is a fair proportion out of *thirty* medical members of the Council.

One member of the Middlesex nursing staff is suggested for removal from the Matrons' and Sisters' lists, but *two* are nominated to replace her, and, altogether, *seven* nominations out of *twenty* are of Matrons or nurses trained (if only for one year) at Middlesex Hospital; or, an average of one in three.

THE Nurses' Co-operation, which numbers nearly 500 members, loses two of its three representatives on the Council, and these are not replaced by members of the same Society on the new list. The Chartered Co-operation has two votes, one held by a nurse trained at Middlesex Hospital for *eighteen months*.

### SPECIALISM ACCEPTED.

A LIST of institutions has been drawn up which will entitle the Matron to an *ex-officio* seat on the General Council of the R.B.N.A.—a barren honour, as the new bye-laws give every scrap of real power into the hands of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee, and amongst these institutions it will surprise no one to find classed

two special hospitals, which are not and can never become, efficient training schools, as at the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, only patients suffering with various forms of tuberculosis are received; and at the Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich, women are not admitted; so that, to give the Matrons of these institutions the same voting power on the General Council as the Matrons of the large Nurse Training Schools, is to reduce *ex-officio* representation to a farce.

AND why have the London Hospital and Westminster Hospital been omitted from the list? By special request, no doubt.

AND why, when the Poor Law Infirmaries in the districts are placed on the list, are the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and the Sunderland Infirmary, all of which hospitals contain upwards of 200 beds, omitted?

### TWO NURSE MEMBERS EXPELLED.

WHEN one remembers the energy with which the Hon. Officers attacked a nurse member, and the threat to remove her name from the Register, because she had ventured to criticise their mismanagement of the Association in the press, one cannot help contrasting it with the leisurely manner in which they have dealt with a member who has, on various occasions to their knowledge, "done time" for theft.

AT last this convict has been expelled from the Royal British Nurses' Association, but in a very unsatisfactory method, the Executive Committee having recommended to the Council that her name should be removed from the Roll, without bringing evidence of her crime before it. This the Council refused to sanction, and referred the matter back for investigation—a most necessary precaution, when it is realised that under the new Bye-laws the medical officers have assumed absolute power *over the personal rights of the nurse members*. Past experience has proved that such power in such hands is most dangerous to the liberty of the subject, and the Council is greatly to be commended, that it insisted upon a member being *proved guilty* before she was condemned.

IN the case of the second nurse member expelled from the Association at the last meeting of the General Council, we would point out that the Executive Committee for once took the precaution of conforming to the Charter and Bye-laws, and summoned a special meeting of the General Council to deal with the matter. We are glad to observe that they have at last realised that they must do so occasionally.

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