

to wrench self-government from the members of the R.B.N.A. by its medical officials, but no episode in the whole miserable story left quite such a nasty taste in the mouth as the methods adopted in the attempt to break up or seriously injure the Registered Nurses' Society—fortunately, without the slightest success.

The Registered Nurses' Society never was officially connected with the R.B.N.A. It follows, therefore, that it has not "severed its connection with this Association," as stated by Miss Leigh. It has, moreover, under the able management of its present trained Secretary, continued to grow in public favour, and its highly efficient members have no desire whatever to be placed under the control of untrained persons such as those selected by the medical Hon. Officers to help to govern the R.B.N.A. and the Chartered Nurses' Society. We feel sure Registered Nurses possess more professional *esprit de corps*.

We cannot hope that Miss Leigh will correct her errors in the next issue of the "official organ," because we know of old the methods employed in the management of the *Nurses' Journal* to "suppress" unpalatable matter; otherwise, the nursing profession might have hoped for further light on the statement made by Sir Henry Burdett, in its columns, that, at the age of eleven years, he co-operated with Mrs. Wardroper, the late Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, to evolve the modern system of nurse training! Neither do we presume the R.B.N.A. will consider it necessary to apologise to Miss Florence Nightingale for promulgating such a *canard*.

A SOP TO CERBERUS.

MISS LEIGH also alludes in her paper to another scheme to be inaugurated by the R.B.N.A., the formation of an Auxiliary Society of Aged Nurses, and of which Dr. Wethered, of Middlesex Hospital, is in control. It is proposed to compose this Society of Nurses between the ages of "forty and sixty," who, Miss Leigh is informed, "are the best nurses after all."

If this be so, there can be no valid reason for excluding members of the R.B.N.A. between these ages from membership of the Chartered Nurses' Society, and we may here point out that the limited number of members included in this Society absorb, through its Medical Committee, *the whole power of advertisement and every other financial advantage to be gained from the R.B.N.A. and paid for by those members who are over its age limit of thirty-five and who are*

excluded from its benefits! No wonder these older members are at last awakening to the absurdity of supporting with cash the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which they are all Chartered Members, when their own Hon. Officers and Committees form themselves into a small bureaucracy, and use the office, the journal advertisements, and every other item of association to *gain financial support for their own little clique of nurses*, under the name of *The Society of Chartered Nurses*, and thus deprive all the other members of their *rights* both of name and of purse!

It is only unbusiness-like British nurses who would have submitted to such flagrant despoilation for a day, without protesting against such trickery, and we only hope they will not swallow this silly sop to Cerberus, now offered to them.

Evidence is before us that the credentials of nurses who have not completed three years' hospital training—even in the scraps now swallowed by the R.B.N.A. as qualifying for membership—are being taken up. We intend to watch Dr. Wethered's Society very closely in the interest of both trained nurses and the sick, and we hope he will not be so misguided as to attempt to foist half-trained old women on an unsuspecting public. We consider that advertising on the part of young medical men, should be promptly discouraged by the General Medical Council, as suggested by "A Bradford Nurse" in this week's correspondence columns.

Items of Interest.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN travelled from Balmoral to Glasgow on Wednesday to open the new Ruchill Hospital.

THE prizes and certificates will be distributed to the students and probationers of the London Hospital on July 19th, at 3.30 p.m., in the Library at the College, by Mr. Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital. At the same time the new Students' Rooms, Garden, and Fives Court will be declared open.

THE Countess of Meath presided at a meeting of the Meath Workhouse Nursing Association, which was held at her residence, 83, Lancaster Gate, on the 7th inst. It was decided to increase the work of the Association, as the demand from Guardians for nurses is so great.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)