

government has been taken from the members; and the aid of the "ladies of the ballet" has been invoked and utilized to fill its empty coffers. It can therefore be no longer regarded as a professional association, or as having serious aims and aspirations, and must be relegated to the number of those societies, unhappily far too numerous, which exist by obsequiously fawning upon the upper ten thousand, and are not too particular as to the cleanliness of the patronizing hand—provided its owner possesses a title. Indefensible and cruel as has been the betrayal of the nurses in their own Association by the medical officers, who should have regarded the protection of the interests committed to their care as a sacred duty, the large majority of nurse members themselves, cannot unfortunately be exonerated from participating in this betrayal by their subservient and willing weakness. With the exception of a sturdy and unbribable minority, who conscientiously opposed step by step the disastrous policy of the officials, the members proved themselves amenable to considerations of self-interest, and, fearing the disapprobation of their medical patrons, supported all their schemes, regardless of their professional responsibility. An eminent cleric has well said that "a vote is a sacred thing, for the right use of which we are answerable to God," a truth which it would have been well for those to have realized who so lightly followed the lead given to them from the platform at R. B. N. A. meetings, without making themselves acquainted with the matter under discussion. It is well, now that the last remnant of its former professional character has slipped away from the R. B. N. A. that those Matrons who have maintained their professional self-respect, should be meeting next week to consider the formation of a National Association of Nurses on self-governing and respecting lines. The history of all new movements has been one of attempted coercion, or of destruction by the Juggernaut of oppression; of resistance, and of insistence on freedom, on the part of a small minority; of a fight more or less prolonged, and of the ultimate triumph of truth and justice. When the history of the Royal British Nurses' Association comes to be written, across the dark pages will stand out in bright letters the story of the little band who refused to be bought and sold, and who declined to barter, for the sake of personal advancement, rights which they held in trust for their profession and which were not theirs to sell.

## Annotations.

### THE PRINCE'S FUND AND VIVISECTION.

The report of the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund deals with the Memorial drawn up by the Metropolitan Radical Federation and forwarded to his Royal Highness, alleging, amongst other matters of complaint, that grants of money, of which no accounts are published, are made from the general receipts of hospitals to Medical Schools and laboratories, and that since the inauguration of the Prince's Fund such grants have been increased. As the Prince of Wales in 1897 stated that there was no intention of devoting any part of his Hospital Fund to the support of medical laboratories, it appears to the Metropolitan Radical Federation that upon the Committee of the Prince's Fund lies the heavy responsibility of disregarding his Royal Highness's clearly expressed beneficent intentions. The reply of the Committee that the awards to the Hospitals are made on the recommendations of the visitors who have inspected and reported on them, and that "in no case can there be found in these reports any award given for a medical school or laboratory. Nor can it be fairly said that the hospital authorities have, in fact, used any part of such grants for medical schools and laboratories," does not appear to satisfy the Metropolitan Radical Federation. They re-affirm their contention in the following words:—

"That the medical schools and the laboratories licensed for vivisection which publish no accounts, should be subsidised by grants out of funds subscribed by the charitable for the tending of the sick, remains, in the opinion of the Federation, one of the gravest scandals of our time, against which, as representing a very large body of working men, they feel bound solemnly to protest.

That the Committee of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund should make no effort to discountenance this scandal, but should even fail to fulfil a definite pledge made by his Royal Highness that his Hospital Fund should be free from it, cannot but be a matter of serious concern to everyone who regards the interests of the patients as paramount in our hospitals.

But the profoundest regret of all is felt by every member of the Federation that his Royal Highness should allow the pledge he gave in this matter to be openly disregarded by his committee, and should suffer the great influence of his name and person to be employed in defending the diversion of money by hospital managers in London to purposes for which it was not contributed."

There is no doubt that there is a very strong feeling on the part of many charitable men and women against any portion of funds subscribed

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