

thank you for the championship of our cause in this vexed question of women nurses and midwifery.

In the matter of the "deal" between the Medical Defence Union and the Executive of the Royal British Nurses' Association, we who belong to the latter, and hold the much discussed diploma of the London Obstetrical Society must recognise your good work for us.

About a fortnight ago I wrote to the Executive of the Nurses' Association protesting against its action in having at the dictation of the Medical Defence Union proposed to depreciate my qualification of Midwife to that of "Midwifery-Nurse," and in my letter I notified the Executive Committee to withdraw from publication any list, book, or register which might mislead the public, and do me professional harm.

To this letter I have had no reply, not even an acknowledgment as to its having been received.

It would be useless to send you a copy of my letter, for I fear you are too "press bound" by the law of libel; it would hardly be wise for you to publish it; as for myself, I have long since given up studying and choosing "temperate" language in this matter of the exploiting suppression of Nurses both in the Royal British Nurses' Association, and in the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, and the quarrel just now rampant in medical circles, is but a phase of this exploitation.

As to the methods adopted by the Executive Committee, who really believes it acts in the interests of the Nurse members? Very few who were present at Nurse Barlow's want of fair play condemnation could be so blinded.

The principle of the whole of its working has, so far as I have been able to judge, been to injure its *Nurse* members whenever a question has arisen bearing upon relative rights of the nurse and medical members. When I seconded an amendment at the meeting at Hanover Square, to secure Nurse Barlow even a show of fair play, I was totally in ignorance of the fact that because of my quarrel with one of the medical profession, who was not even a member of the Association, an attempt had been made to erase my name from the register; and to show how little reliance is to be placed upon the word of certain members of the Executive Committee, this has been denied to me by Dr. Bezly-Thorne, who took an active part in this attempt to expel me from the Association as he did in the Barlow case. The midwives who belong to the Association have to please themselves whom they believe in this wordy war—the Medical Defence Union or the Executive Committee of their own Association. It is a great pity for Nurses that the Royal British Nurses' Association, which started so promisingly to safeguard the interests of nurses belonging to it, should have been captured by the "tools" of Sir Henry Burdett, who is really the trained nurses' greatest enemy from a professional standpoint—for to nurses it is practically of no use, it is indeed a source of danger to each of its *Nurse* members, as in this instance. Trained nurses holding the midwife's diploma and not belonging to this association are not at the present time subjected to the annoyance and possible professional loss by being listed as "Midwifery Nurses."

It is time nurses found it convenient to copy the medical men in having a Nurses' Defence Union. It is apparently necessary.

For myself, although remaining a member of the R.B.N. Association, and I am afraid amongst the number whom our secretary so boastfully speaks of as "fast dying out," after their attempt to get rid of me as "inconvenient," I have found it wiser to join other associations to safeguard my professional standard, character, and means of livelihood.

Meanwhile I mean to keep my L.O.S. Diploma, entitling me to act as a skilled midwife, and should it come to an enquiry, I think I shall be able to prove I have shewn myself capable of doing my work efficiently.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,

A. J. BEATTY,

M.R.B.N. Association,

Diploma of L.O. Society, etc., etc.

36, Rowan Road, Hammersmith.

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

SUNDERLAND NURSING INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to the report respecting Nurse S. H. Foote's action against the Committee of the Sunderland Nursing Institute, Dr. Morgan, as chairman, taking the part of defendant for them. The reports as they appear, may convey a wrong impression, so I shall be glad if you will allow the facts to appear in your paper.

In August of last year, at my request, Nurse Foote came to the Institute to see me. I noticed that her face was much swollen, and spoke to her about it, suggesting that she should see our Honorary Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. Maling; she did not wish to do so then, and as she was leaving her case in two or three days, I did not press it.

On August 30th Nurse returned to the Institute, and I at once had her seen by Dr. W. H. Maling. He found an abscess forming, and, when ready, opened it, and saw her several times, and in about a fortnight it was healed. As Nurse has never seemed strong, I kept her in for rest until

September 27th, she having then been in the Institute exactly four weeks for rest and attention on that date.

September 27th I sent her for three or four days to a lady in the country who required no real nursing.

On October 1st, thinking another change might be beneficial to her, she was sent into Northumberland to remain with a lady until her own nurse was at liberty.

On October 10th the lady's nurse was able to release Nurse Foote before any nursing was required, and so she returned to the Institute, remaining in for five days.

On October 15th I sent her to a case for a week, she coming to sleep in the Institute, and reporting herself as very well.

On October 23rd I suggested she might visit some friends outside the town. She was preparing to do this, when a client, whose child was dangerously ill, came for a nurse. I asked Nurse to forego her visit, promising it another time.

On November 7th she came in from that case.

On November 9th went out again, coming in November 16th, with her face again swollen; she refused to have anything done, but on

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)