

Browne, called upon Miss Barlow's solicitor to retire—stating that he ruled, on good authority, that all who were not members of the Association must withdraw—yet Sir John Russell Reynolds, then President of the Royal College of Physicians, was, on account of his position in the medical profession, invited by the officials to move the resolution condemning Miss Barlow, although, as Mr. Fardon full well knew, he was not a member of the Association at all. Thus the whole meeting was not only illegal, but a farce. Mr. Fardon's conduct in this connection is absolutely indefensible.

#### BREAY v. BROWNE.

Next came the annual meeting of the Association, when a resolution was placed upon the agenda of the meeting condemning the management of the officials by another nurse-member, Miss Margaret Breay. Once more Mr. Fardon attained an unhappy notoriety by his method of dealing with this resolution. The by-law governing such resolutions provided that the text should be received by registered letter three weeks before the meeting, for insertion upon the agenda, and though Mr. Fardon admitted that the resolution had thus been received and placed upon the agenda, he asserted that it was not sent in a registered letter, and said he "must leave it to the Chairman and the meeting whether the resolution should be put to the meeting in contravention of the regulations." Although Miss Breay was able to refute this unworthy quibble by producing the post-office receipt of registration, she was not permitted by the Chairman (Sir James Crichton Browne) to move the resolution. Ultimately she brought a county court action against the Chairman of the meeting, in order to test the legality of this proceeding, and to vindicate the right of the members to have the business of their Association conducted legally and in order, according to the by-laws which interpret their Royal Charter. When the presence of Mr. Fardon, who, as Hon. Secretary of the Association, was the only person able to give evidence on certain points, was required, Mr. Pitt (who was acting for the defence) had to go into the witness box and swear that he had endeavoured to obtain the presence of Mr. Fardon at the trial without success. He had written two or three letters and made inquiries as to his whereabouts, but had been unable to find his address. This was on October 5th, when the Medical Schools had re-opened and it was the duty of the Medical Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital to be at his post. The inference that he dare not face the music, and so ran away and hid himself, is too obvious to require emphasis.

It certainly did not surprise the nurse-members concerned to find that in these proceedings the legal advisers of the Association were retained to

defend the hon. officers, whose legal expenses were paid out of the general funds of the Association. In this connection we have more than once called upon Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Bezly Thorne, and Mr. Fardon to return the nurses' money thus utilised to the treasury of their Association.

#### THE CHARTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

The absorption of the Registered Nurses' Society, of its paid Secretary, of members and probationers, of their rules, regulations, and uniform, of the addresses of medical supporters and patients, and the subsequent setting up of the Chartered Nurses' Society within fifty yards of the Registered Nurses' office was a piece of sharp practice too low down to be comprehended by gentlepeople.

#### THE ARMY RESERVE COMMITTEE.

The methods of formation of the Committee of the Army Nursing Service Reserve and the exclusion of its initiators were quite in accordance with the Fardonian policy. But the just indignation of a generous nation has swept away this futile Committee, which must be primarily held responsible for the inadequate organisation for the nursing of our sick and wounded in the late war.

#### THE NEW BY-LAWS.

In December, 1897, a meeting was convened—we had almost said to *discuss* the by-laws to which we have already alluded, which we "mainly owe" to Mr. Fardon; but such was not the intention of their originator, who, after reading the notice convening the meeting, proposed a resolution—"That the proposed new by-laws appended hereto be approved."

The illegality of this resolution was pointed out; discussion was nevertheless stifled by the moving of the closure by Sir James Crichton Browne, and upon being put to the meeting the Chairman (Sir Dyce Duckworth) declared Mr. Fardon's resolution carried, refusing the demand that the votes should be counted, and the meeting broke up in disorder.

#### AN HONOURABLE TRUST.

The history of Mr. Fardon's conduct of the business of the Association in relation to legislation for midwives is summed up in the current issue of *Nursing Notes*, the official organ of the Midwives' Institute, as follows:—"So far as may be judged from recent proceedings, the Council and Executive of the R.B.N.A. are not governed by any of the ordinary rules of business, and follow or ignore the resolutions passed at their Council meetings in a manner surely unprecedented in any other legally constituted Association."

For these high-handed and illegal methods to which we have for years called attention Mr. Fardon is primarily responsible. When he accepted the position of Medical Hon. Secretary to the R.B.N.A. he accepted an honourable trust at a critical moment in the history of British nurses; he

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