

Breay's assertion that the letter *was* registered, supported by the receipt of the Post Office for a registered postal packet.

From that time onwards the Association lost the confidence of those who knew their own minds on the Registration question, and who realised the wrong done to those women who had subscribed thousands of pounds to the Association in support of the principle of Registration, which was now repudiated by the hon. officers and their supporters on the Executive Committee.

Having denied the foundation principle of the Association, the hon. officers turned their attention to the by-laws under which the nurse-members had ample powers of self-government. On December 17th, 1897, after having been illegally passed by the Executive Committee by methods which must stand condemned for all time, these by-laws were sanctioned by a special general meeting of members, the majority of whom, following the lead given to them from the platform, voted away the liberties which had been won not only for themselves but for their successors.

These by-laws received the assent of the Privy Council in 1898, and it is noteworthy that in the following year a Roll of Members was substituted for the Register of the Association, and the preface which had stood from its first issue was expunged, and in its place a statement was inserted that "The Royal British Nurses' Association was founded in 1887 . . . for the purposes of the improvement of the profession of nurses, and of the promotion of their efficiency and usefulness, and of assisting them by various benevolent schemes." Thus State Registration was dropped like a hot potato, no doubt under the mistaken supposition that British nurses were effectually cowed.

Subsequent events have proved, however, that the hon. officers failed, as usual, to gauge the strength of conviction and determination of the women who had founded the British Nurses' Association for the benefit of nurses, and we think we may state without fear of contradiction that the question of their legal status has been kept in the forefront of professional politics from that day to this. Of one thing we are very sure, and that is that the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will not submit to any further coercion upon the part of the present medical managers of the Royal British Nurses' Association. It is right and just that any Central Body which Parliament may entrust with the government of the future profession of nursing should be composed of persons whom the large body of registered nurses can respect. After the betrayal of their vital interests by the hon. officers and Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, it is imperative that very limited powers should be bestowed upon any Nurses' Association which stands for expediency as apart from principle.

## Nursing Echoes.

*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The Countess of Dudley has issued an appeal for subscriptions to a fund for establishing and maintaining nurses in the poorest of the Irish country districts. Her Excellency states that she has been led to make the appeal in consequence of the constant applications which have been made to her from the poorest and most congested parts of Ireland, and the great need for assisting people in the direction indicated has been brought home to her very forcibly in many different ways. The fund is to be called "Lady Dudley's Fund for Jubilee Nurses." The central authority of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses has voted £180 per annum to form the nucleus of the fund.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Swansea Hospital, Mrs. Elsworth, who was prevented by illness from being present, wrote advocating the increase of the salaries of the Sisters from £30 to £35 per annum. She said they were not as well paid as they should be, considering their duties and the work required of them in training probationers.

Considering the many qualities which go to the making of a good Ward Sister, a few of which are professional skill, good domestic management, teaching capacity, the power of working smoothly with different temperaments, and of maintaining an even balance between the many interests concerned, so that all shall receive due attention, Ward Sisters are probably some of the worst paid of skilled workers. It is quite impossible for a Sister who works hard for twenty years, and is constantly weighted with the responsibility of many human lives, to save enough from a salary of £30 or £35 to make adequate provision for her old age. Surely such a worker should not have to look forward to the alternative of penury or charitable relief when she can work no longer.

The nurses of the Suffolk Victoria Nursing Institute are fortunate in having had provided a Home for their use by the munificence of an anonymous donor, the only stipulation made being that everything should be well and thoroughly done, regardless of expense. A Home has, therefore, been arranged which seems admirably adapted for the purpose for

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