

We hope that after a sufficient rest her valuable services will again be available as the head of a nurse training school.

### League News.

The current issue of the *Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League Journal*, which is the third which has now made its appearance, is quite up to the level which we have learnt to expect of these interesting and excellently edited publications. The League continues to grow and flourish.

We learn with pleasure that it is proposed to form a League of Nurses trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham. We beg to refer those of our readers trained in that institution to the letter from Miss M. E. Jones, Matron, which appears in our correspondence columns. We hope many of the nurses of this important training school will respond to the invitation therein contained. We feel sure they will thoroughly enjoy the pleasures of professional and social co-operation.

### History Repeats Itself.

When the bye-laws of the Royal British Nurses' Association were re-drafted, upon the initiative of Dr. Bezly Thorne, and after a strong and conscientious opposition upon the part of the free minority, the breach of faith with the Founders and Matrons was carried through by the usual unconstitutional methods, the large majority of Matrons of any standing in the Association resigned. History repeats itself; we learn that the inclination of the majority of the Matrons, whose protest against the Nurses' Disenfranchisement Bill has been absolutely ignored by the medical hon. officers, is to sever their connection with a society, of whose principles and conduct of business they strongly disapprove. We are inclined to repeat the very sound advice given by the great "Dizzy," "Never resign." Make a dignified protest in writing to the Executive Committee, and demand that it shall be placed upon the Minutes of the Association, and then with a clear conscience set to work and oppose the unjust Clauses in the Bill, illegally adopted at the irregular Special Meeting on the 7th inst.

The proceedings at the meeting on February 7th were *out of order*, because they violated the bye-law under heading X, which states that "The notice convening a Special General Meeting shall specify the object of the meeting, and no other business except that so specified shall be considered."

The Agenda we received had only the following Resolution on it for consideration "That the resolutions passed at the Special General Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association held on Wednesday,

January 17th, 1906, be rescinded, and that the draft Bill be reintroduced in the form in which it left the Special Meeting of the General Council held on Monday, January 8th, 1906." In spite of our protest this resolution was proposed by Dr. Comyns Berkeley, seconded by Miss Kuys, and declared carried.

That legally concluded the business of the meeting. All further discussion, proposing and seconding of resolutions, was *Out of Order*, and the only Bill which can be presented to Parliament as adopted by the Association is the Bill redrafted by the Executive Committee and adopted by the General Council on January 8th, what is now known as the Disenfranchisement Bill, providing for One Direct Representative for a body of women 80,000 strong, and including many coercion clauses.

No subtle quibbles can make the business transacted after the Resolution on the Agenda was adopted in order, and the Executive Committee know it.

Nurses must keep in mind the chief dangers to their future well-being, both as women and professional workers if the R.B.N.A. Bill should become law.

1. Nurses are to be registered upon certificates granted by the training schools *without examination by a Central Board*. Thus no uniformity of training or standard can ever be attained. There will be hundreds of portals to the nursing profession as there are now with the same chaotic confusion, and the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will be the only nurses in the Empire who are denied this just test, as in the four African Colonies, in New Zealand, in Australasia, and in Canada, also in the ten American States, where registration is in force a Central Examining Board has been considered indispensable, and doctors, dentists, chemists, and midwives have been granted this just power of organisation by Parliament in this country.
2. That medical men through testimonials may place *untrained* women with five years' practice as a nurse on the Trained Nurses' Register. This means that unscrupulous and ignorant persons who have not hesitated to pose as skilled workers—and to exploit the public as such—can be foisted on to the Register, if men of the same stamp have employed them.
3. The Nursing Profession can have no power on the Central Board, as the Matrons and Nurses are in the minority, the Direct Representatives of the profession being absurdly inadequate. Thus Trained Nurses under this Bill are made absolutely dependent upon the will of the profession of medicine, which is to have power to govern them without the responsibility of training, employing, or paying them.  
What could be more monstrous?
4. Badges are to be issued "with every Certificate of Registration," so that Trained Nurses are to be labelled like cabmen and sheep.

Is it possible that this R.B.N.A. Ukase emanated from the archives at Tzarkoe Selo? Anyway, we know how it would be treated *even in Russia* to-day.

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