

I have known amputation of the breast and nearly every sort of minor operation successfully nursed in this way beside a great many medical cases. A great point of success from the nurse's view is the co-operation of the doctors, not only for recommendation but it simplifies matters so much if the doctor is sometimes able and willing to time his visit a little earlier or later to suit the nurse, in those cases where she has to meet him. Judging from the consideration given to one nurse whom I know, I think most doctors would do all in this way which could be reasonably expected.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. DICKSON.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES'
ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—May I ask if you will kindly publish the enclosed correspondence between the Editorial Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association and myself.

I think it may be of interest to other members of the R.B.N.A.

I am, yours faithfully,
MARY BURR.

"The Chestnuts," Ebford,
Topsham, S. Devon.

COPIES.

March 24th, 1906.

To the Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal*.

SIRS,—I believe I am correct in thinking that the *Nurses' Journal* is supposed to be the method by which all news of the Royal British Nurses' Association is conveyed to the members.

This being the case, how is it that no mention is made in the last issue of a Protest signed by twenty-two Matrons and Sisters against the unbusinesslike procedure at the last Special General Meeting?

If it was received too late will it be printed in the April number?

Also no mention is made in the very short and bare report of that meeting of Dr. Bezly Thorne's threat, "That if nurses managed their own affairs doctors" (presumably those on the R.B.N.A.) "would not employ them." Surely it is a most reprehensible thing for an honorary officer to threaten the members, and one which should not be passed over in silence.

But apparently the *Nurses' Journal* is considered as merely the vehicle by which the opinions and wishes of the Honorary Offices are conveyed to the members, all else being completely ignored, and if it were not for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING many members of the Association would know little or nothing of what was being done in their name.

I wish to protest against this state of affairs. The Association is a Nurses' Association. The journal is called and should be the *Nurses' Journal*, and therefore should contain full accounts of the business discussed at meetings, giving a fair account of both sides, as well as all that is going on in the Association, so that members may know not only the ideas of the Honorary Officers, but also the opinions of their fellow members.

May I request that this letter be published in the

next issue of our journal—i.e., the *Nurses' Journal*.

I am yours faithfully,

M. BURR.

To this letter I received the usual formal acknowledgment.

The April number of the *Nurses' Journal* appeared and no notice whatever was taken either of the Matrons' Protest or my letter. I then wrote as follows:—

April 9th, 1906.

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly inform me if the Editorial Committee of the *Nurses' Journal* intend printing in the May issue of that journal the letter I sent complaining of the omission of Association news from the official organ? Also, if the Protest of the Matrons and Sisters as well as the resignation of six Lady Consuls, as reported in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, will be published therein? All these things are important to the members of the Association, and, therefore, should be found in the columns of their paper.

I enclose stamp for a reply to my questions.

I am, yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

To the Secretary,
Royal British Nurses' Association.

The following is the reply received:—

10, Orchard Street, Portman Square, W.

April 10th, 1906.

DEAR MADAM,—As my Committee is not meeting for another fortnight I am not in a position to answer your question as to the publication of your letter of March 24th in the May issue of the *Nurses' Journal*. I may add that what is reported or not reported in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is in no way connected with what is reported or not reported in the *Nurses' Journal*, and it is the custom of the latter paper not to anticipate, but to publish events in their actual sequence. If you refer to the list of Lady Consuls on page 56 of the April number of the *Nurses' Journal* you will find that the names of the five ladies who have resigned their office have been deleted.

I am, yours faithfully,

ANNIE J. HOBBS, Secretary.

To Miss Burr.

To this I replied as follows:—

April 14th, 1906.

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you for your letter of the 10th inst. In regard to your remark, "That what is reported or not reported in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is in no way connected with what is or is not reported in the *Nurses' Journal*" is precisely the point to which I object; that reports are published in an unofficial journal of things connected with the Royal British Nurses' Association which do not appear in its official journal.

I still maintain that Association News should all be officially reported in the Association's Journal, and that Members should not be left to glean important items of information from unofficial journals.

The deletion of the names of the five Lady Consuls who resigned can surely not be construed into

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)