

alleged irregularities. Every member, however, who desires to be present and vote on February 7th should make a point of paying her subscription for the present year if she has not already done so.

Not content in re-drafting the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, with sweeping away six of the seven Direct Representatives of the nurses, thus allowing One vote on their Governing Body to 80,000 women, the Hon. Officers and Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. are now proposing to deprive the members of the Association of their right under the Charter to discuss their own affairs in Special General Meeting assembled.

Now, if their flimsy excuse that the Executive Committee "apprehends" that persons who were not members voted for these amendments (presumably because their subscriptions were in arrears) invalidates the proceedings on the 17th inst., it is the duty of the Executive Committee to summon another special meeting "To consider the Re-drafted Bill" and *not* to present, like a revolver to one's brain, a totally illegal resolution, depriving us of our indisputable right to consider Clause by Clause, the Bill as re-drafted.

That their action will be permitted to pass unchallenged is not to be considered for a moment. The days of Tsardom—that is, the days for trampling on human rights—have had their quietus quite as emphatically at home as in Russia, a fact which Doctors Thorne and Berkeley do not appear to have grasped. Since the time of the "Barlow" and "Breay" cases a new generation of nurses, and a new generation of legislators, have arisen, and we would warn the medical autocrats at the R.B.N.A. that we shall fight their cowardly attempts to deprive us of liberty of conscience and free speech with the utmost determination.

The present scandalous Bill drafted by the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. does not merely affect the few nurses in their employment who are at their mercy, whose votes are apparently at their disposal, and whom they can treat with the contempt they deserve, but it touches the *personal rights and professional liberties of the trained nurses of the United Kingdom as a whole*, and we are fully convinced that this great body of women will submit neither to enslavement nor indignity upon the suggestion of men, whose status in their own profession in no way qualifies them to pose as representing medical opinion on the nursing or any other question, an honourable profession which we

have no hesitation in asserting, deprecates the use by certain members of its body of the Nurses' Association for purposes of advertisement and social advancement.

The truth is that on the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses—or, rather, on the question of self-government for nurses—the Royal British Nurses' Association—is a house divided against itself, and the disfranchisement of the nurses, as proposed in the Re-drafted Bill, is a sop to Cerberus. Sir Dyce Duckworth, Sir Anderson Crichtett, Dr. William Duncan, and Mr. Fardon (Middlesex), Miss Thorold and Miss E. C. Vernet, past and present Matrons (Middlesex), and several other members signed Mr. Holland's Anti-Registration Manifesto.

The present Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A., who are attempting to carry matters with such a high hand are:—

*Hon. Officers and the Medical Members.*—Sir James Crichton Browne, Mr. Pickering Pick, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. Godson, Mr. John Langton, Mrs. Coster, and Dr. Comyns Berkeley, Hon. Officers; and Mr. Arthur Barker, Dr. Cheadle, Sir Alfred Cooper, Mr. E. A. Fardon, Dr. Morley Fletcher, Dr. John Galton, Mr. Henry Hind, Mr. T. Mark Hovell, Dr. Malins, and Dr. Wethered.

*Matrons.*—Miss C. Forrest, Miss Graham (Mile End Infirmary), Miss Jones (General Hospital, Birmingham), Mrs. Latter, Miss Robins (Princess Christian's Home, Windsor), Miss Tawney, Miss Titherington (Nurse's Home, Ealing), Miss Vernet (Middlesex Hospital), and Miss Wesley (St. George's-in-the-East Infirmary).

*Sisters and Nurses.*—Miss Boldero (Middlesex), Miss Bramwell (Bart's), Miss Grace Gordon, Miss H. Green (Nurses' Co-op.), Miss Fenwick Hutchinson (Chartered Nurses' Society), Miss E. P. James (Chartered Nurses' Society), Miss F. Sleigh (Bart's), Miss Kuys, Miss I. Steuart, and Mrs. Campbell Thomson (whose husband signed the Anti-Registration Manifesto).

It will thus be seen that the Committee is partly composed of anti-registrationists, and that Miss C. Forrest, Miss Tawney, and Miss Kuys had the courage at the Special General Meeting to support the just claim of the nursing profession in their demand for direct representation on their own Governing Body, when the last two ladies received sufficient support to carry their amendment by a majority of twenty-three. Let us hope that many other members of the R.B.N.A. will have the courage to follow this good example at the meeting to be held on February 7th.

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