previous notification. (This, as a result of legal action, was proved invalid, and was formally rescinded by resolution at the Council Meeting held on Friday, February 12th, 1915.)

4. On account of the Council refusing our candidates for their Massage examinations, at first on the plea of our being no longer members of the Society (vide Nursing Notes, October, 1914), and now that the law has re-instated us as members a resolution passed on March 12th, 1915, states:—

a resolution passed on March 12th, 1915, states:—
"That in consequence of the neglect or refusal on the part of the Misses Scamell and Bedingfield to comply with the regulations and requirements of the Society with reference to the training of students in preparation for the examination in Swedish Remedial Exercises in July, 1914, this Council is unable to accept pupils from the Misses Scamell and Bedingfield for any of the examinations held by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses." (A copy of this resolution, passed by an Independent Examining Board being sent to us in a registered letter marked "PRIVATE.")

Please note I intend to publish this letter, also any reply received from the Society.

I am,

Yours truly, (Signed), I. M. Scamell.

School of Massage and Swedish Remedial Exercises,

55, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, S.W. March 15th, 1915.

To the Chairman of the I.S.T.M.

Madam,—I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the I.S.T.M. as a protest against the arbitrary methods of that Society, and for the reasons expressed in my partner, Miss Scamell's letter of resignation of same date. I have been furthered in this decision by the stand made by Mrs. Marriott-Fox, and entirely endorse the opinions so ably expressed by her in the letters published in the March 6th, 1915 issue of The British Journal of Nursing. I reserve to myself the right to publish this letter, as also any reply.

Yours truly, (Signed) C. L. BEDINGFIELD.

The Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, 157, Great Portland Street, W. April 9th, 1915.

DEAR MISS SCAMELL,—Your letter dated March 15th, addressed to me as Chairman of the Council of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, was laid before the Council at their meeting this afternoon, when your resignation as a member of the Society was noted and accepted.

The Council further noted the various reasons you put forward to account for your being out of sympathy with the methods and management of the Society, and wish me to reply to each:—

r. The change in the wording of rules, permitting exemption from further courses on Anatomy and Applied Treatment for candidates making entry to the inaugural examination for

Teacher's Diploma in October 1913, was made, because it had never been the intention of the Committee, dealing with the preliminary arrangements, to require that any candidate holding a certificate from a School in Sweden recognised by the Government should repeat the training she had already had. The courses were arranged to benefit all candidates who needed further experience and study before examination. Being fully aware of the intentions of the Committee, the alteration of the wording of the advertisement in December 1912, though noticed by you at the time, did not in any way put you "out of sympathy with the methods and management of the Society," for I would point out that you remained on the Council, and further offered yourself for reelection the following year and attended the monthly and other meetings till January 1914.

2. The disqualification of students from your school as candidates for the examination in Swedish Remedial Exercises, July 1914, was due entirely, as you are aware, to the fact that they had not received the scheduled preparation from an approved teacher, and therefore their applications were out of order. As this correspondence is to be published it will be as well that the facts

regarding this training should be stated.

For some time, since 1910, you had prepared and entered your students for the Society's examinations in Massage (before that date you had instructed pupils at the Westminster Massage Classes, Dr. Fram Gotla) and in 1912 you qualified in Swedish Remedial Exercises, being granted by the Society their certificate for the subject. A footnote to this certificate states that it "carries no qualification as a teacher." Being desirous of extending the teaching at your school to Swedish Remedial Exercises you notified in 1912 your intention to enter for the examination for Teachers' Diploma in Swedish Remedial Exercises when such should be arranged. When the preparatory courses for this examination were announced you and Miss Bedingfield raised many objections to them, and this being an inaugural examination the Council offered various concessions of which you took full advantage, so that your preparation consisted solely of a course of twelve lectures on Psychology. You finally withdrew your name as a candidate for examination as you found yourself much occupied with private work. Your school being therefore still without an accepted teacher of Medical Gymnastics you applied to Council as to the best means by which to put it in order for the preparation of students. After much discussion you took steps, and notified the Society in December 1913, that a qualified teacher had been appointed to your school to be responsible for the preparation of students in Swedish Remedial Exercises.

The syllabus of weekly training scheduled and in use since 1910 was well known to you, and the Council believed they could trust you, as Principal of the School, to see that your qualified teacher carried out all the requirements. Unfortunately, you did not do so, and half-way through the

previous page next page