

pendence except one, which, at the time, escaped my memory. There is nothing to conceal. Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, our President, appreciating the value of Miss Macdonald's work and the feelings entertained towards her by the members of the association, was pleased to instruct the honorary officers to safeguard Miss Macdonald's position. As this could not be accomplished fully in the bye-laws or in the agreement, I was requested by the Executive Committee to see Mr. Stanley and discuss this and other points about which strong representations had been made to the Executive Committee by many of our members. I embodied in a letter the various conditions discussed; Mr. Stanley concurred with them, and subsequently, in reply to a letter drafted by our solicitor, Mr. Sydney Pitt, the conditions were accepted by the Hon. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry. This is the whole story. While the Executive Committee do not recognise the right of any individual member to demand, as a matter of right, as Miss Hawkins has done, a copy of any correspondence passing between them and any other person or persons, such correspondence being obviously confidential, nevertheless the Executive Committee realise that this matter is one of interest to the members of the association, and that its publication will show how little justification there is for the insinuations which have been made, and so have authorised me to publish it, a course to which the Hon. Arthur Stanley has given his consent. I may perhaps be pardoned for stating that not a single member of the association, other than Miss Hawkins, has enquired either verbally or in writing as to this "mysterious pact." No more signal proof could be afforded of the confidence which the members repose in their honorary officers and Executive Committee. I venture to hope, therefore, that you will be able to find space for the correspondence, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
HERBERT J. PATERSON,
Medical Hon. Secretary,

London, W. R.B.N.A.
March 23rd, 1917.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

Copy.

16, St. Andrew Street, Holborn
Circus, 30th November.

Royal British Nurses' Association and the College
of Nursing, Limited.

DEAR MR. STANLEY,—I understand from Mr. Paterson that you have arranged with him that an undertaking shall be given with regard to the following points: (1) "The Registrar" is to be substituted for "the Secretary" in the draft Bill of the College for the registration of Nurses. (2) The Nursing Society of the Royal British Nurses' Association is to be carried on, and the private staff is to be continued, on at least its present scale, with salaries and emolu-

ments not less than those which they now receive. (3) Miss Rundle is to be the Secretary of the Amalgamated Body. (4) Miss Macdonald is to be the Registrar. While she continues to discharge her present duties she is to receive her present salary and emoluments, but in no event is her salary to be less than that of the Secretary. (5) It is to be understood that one-third of the Members of the first Council elected under the Bye-laws and one-third of the Members of the Amalgamated Body who may represent it on the Council under the proposed Bill for registration of nurses, shall be Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

If you agree to the above, I shall be glad if you will kindly let me have an undertaking signed by yourself and Sir Cooper Perry, that due effect shall be given to them.

I quite understand that you cannot legally bind the new Council, and that your acceptance can only be considered as an honourable undertaking that you will do your utmost to see that effect shall be given to these points, and that it must not be considered as involving any of you in any personal liability.

Believe me, yours truly,
(Signed) SYDNEY PITT.

Copy.

The College of Nursing, Limited, 83, Pall Mall,
London, S.W., 11th December.

Royal British Nurses' Association and the College
of Nursing, Limited.

DEAR MR. PITT,—I have now had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Sir Cooper Perry, and we agree to give the undertaking asked for in your letter of the 30th ultimo, on the understanding contained in the last paragraph of the same letter.

As a proof of our joint acceptance of the above terms I have asked Sir Cooper Perry to sign with me, and his signature is appended.—I am, dear Mr. Pitt, yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY.
" E. COOPER PERRY.

Messrs. Pontifex, Pitt and Co.

A few words of criticism on this most astounding correspondence may be efficacious.

It will be remembered that at the Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A., held in London on January 18th last, the only business discussed was a Resolution providing for Amalgamation between the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing proposed in a "luscious" speech by the Hon. Medical Secretary, Mr. Herbert Paterson. Neither the Clauses of the proposed Supplemental Charter, nor the proposed Bye-Laws were even read—and, in all the specious platitudes proclaimed by the medical officers from the platform, the practical issue at stake was entirely ignored—the deprivation of the Nursing Profession of its Royal Charter incorporating a Trained Nurses' Association, and substituting for an Association for mutual help and co-operation, an Educational Body, member-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)