

appear in person or by agent, to show cause why his name should not be removed.

#### CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION.

27. (a) Any person whose name is removed from the Register of Nurses shall thereupon cease to be a Member of the Corporation.

(b) Any person who becomes a Member of the Corporation under Bye-Law 4 (a) shall cease to be a Member of the Corporation if and when such person ceases to be a Member of the Council or of the Branch or Local Board, as the case may be.

(c) Any person who becomes a Member of the Corporation under the provisions of paragraphs (a) or (b) of Bye-Law 4 shall cease to be a Member of the Corporation if such person resigns his membership or is requested to resign by a resolution of the Council passed by a majority of two-thirds of the whole number of the members of the Council.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF BYE-LAWS.

28. In case any question shall arise as to the construction or operation of any Bye-Law or Rule, the question shall be decided by the Council. Where any expression is defined by the Charter such expression shall have the same meaning in these Bye-Laws.

### THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE NURSES TO THE KING IN COUNCIL.

#### RE THE PETITION OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER AND NEW BYE-LAWS.

*To the King's Most Excellent Majesty in  
Council.*

#### THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES

#### SHEWETH—

1. That the said Society was founded in the year 1902 for the purpose of promoting and obtaining an Act of Parliament providing for the Registration of Trained Nurses, and that the said Society has been since joined by 4,220 thoroughly trained nurses, and that the Executive Committee of the said Society consists of past or present Matrons of Hospitals, and representatives of allied Nursing Societies in the United Kingdom.

2. That the said Executive Committee on behalf of the said Society desires to point out that the Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, dated June 6th, 1893, was granted to a Society solely composed of duly qualified

medical practitioners and trained nurses; that the intention of the Charter, as proved by the Incorporation Clause, was that the membership of the said Association should be restricted to such professional persons; that for twenty-four years that constitution has been maintained; that one chief object of the proposed Supplemental Charter is to vitiate and nullify that intention by providing for the admission of unprofessional persons as members, thus destroying the whole professional nature of the Nurses' Association. Against this complete reversal of principle and practice, Your Petitioners venture most earnestly to protest.

3. The original Charter was granted chiefly "for the purpose of maintaining a closer connection among persons practising as Nurses and thereby ensuring their mutual counsel, comfort and support." At the hearing of the Petition for this Charter in November, 1892, the Counsel for the opponents (Lord Alverstone) argued that it was the intention of the said Association to pose as an educational body and to dictate to the many Hospitals in the United Kingdom how their nursing departments should be conducted. If reference be made to the Petitions against, and in favour of, the grant of the said Charter, it will be seen that this argument was strongly emphasized, and that the said Association in its documents and by its Counsel (Lord Davey) expressly declared that it had no such intention and that if the Charter were granted the Association would not attempt to undertake any such work or dictation. Your Petitioners would therefore plead that it is an attempt to traverse the above formal promises and declarations—upon the good faith of which the original Charter was granted—that the present application to convert the said Association into an actual Collegiate and Educational Corporation should be made.

Moreover, Your Petitioners would submit that the alteration both in name and character of the said Association involves not only the transformation of the Association as a benevolent professional Society into a Collegiate Corporation but a complete destruction of the Association as a body designed and incorporated to maintain and ensure the mutual counsel, comfort and support of a body of Nurses estimated to number at least 50,000, who greatly need and have no other similar Incorporated Society for obtaining such benefits and co-operation amongst themselves; and if they lost the benefits and advantages of this Chartered Corporation, it is improbable that they could afford to apply for the grant of another Charter.

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