

the old routine until some more enterprising spirit outside undertakes to do what they should have been doing long ago?

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There must come, in the future, a more definite and general recognition of the right of graduate Nurses to a share in the government of Directories. Not all of us have yet come to realize that the graduate is no longer a pupil in training, and cannot be logically required to live under rules in the making of which she has had no part. Training Schools and other bodies have no right, for instance, to fix and limit rates of payment for private duty, save in conjunction with the graduates, who should take part in the decision of all such questions by means of their duly appointed representatives. Of course all this means organization, and that means time and work, as well as the slow cultivation of public opinion. We shall not always be unorganized, and it is not too soon for Nurses to begin talking over some of these things. Plainly, it is not too soon, when we see the attempts being made to appropriate and utilize and control a body of women who call themselves professional women, and who ought to be self-dependent and self-governing, if they expect ever to rise above the traditions of the past and occupy a truly dignified position in the world."

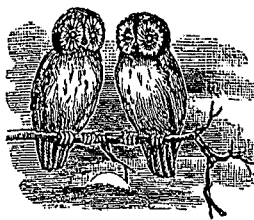
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These are wise words, and, if taken to heart, will doubtless do something to broaden those minds which a past system has "cramped." But in advocating the supervision of Nurses' Directories by the Training Schools in the States, it must be distinctly understood that Miss Dock does not for a moment suggest that the system in vogue in so many Institutions in this country should prevail, namely, that the Nurses should be a source of profit to the Hospital, but that, *as a duty* to its qualified Nurses, the Training School should interest itself in their future welfare in that most responsible and important branch of work—private Nursing. In England, this good work has drifted into the hands of persons truly interested in procuring Nurses a just remuneration for their arduous labour, and has produced the Registered Nurses' Society and kindred institutions.

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## Matrons in Council.



WE have received our summons to the first meeting of the Matrons' Council, which is to be held at 3 p.m. on the 1st of November at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when the draft Bye-Laws of the Constitution will be proposed, and it is hoped be exhaustively discussed,

before adoption. With Miss Isla Stewart in the Chair, we may be sure that every facility will be afforded to those present who desire to express an opinion. The admission of Associates (certificated Nurses of three years' training holding the position of Sisters of Wards) will doubtless be the chief subject for discussion, and will receive the attention it deserves, and as there are good arguments both for and against their admission, it is to be hoped that earnest consideration will be given to the subject by all those who attend the Meeting and who intend to speak.

The following are the Draft Bye-Laws:—

1. That the Name of the Society shall be "THE MATRONS' COUNCIL."
2. That the Objects of the Society shall be:—
  - a. To enable Hospital Matrons to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession.
  - b. To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination and Certification for Nurses in British Hospitals.
  - c. To form an Advisory Committee, to which Members can apply for counsel in cases of professional difficulty.
  - d. To hold Conferences to discuss subjects of professional, and also of general, interest.
  - e. To encourage Hospital Matrons to understand the methods of procedure at Meetings.
3. The Society shall be formed of Members and Associates. Women who are or have been Matrons of Hospitals and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, who are trained Nurses, shall be eligible for Membership. Night Superintendents, Ward Sisters or Charge Nurses of Hospitals, who are thoroughly trained, shall be eligible as Associates.
4. The Annual Subscription for Members shall be five shillings; and for Associates, two shillings and sixpence.
5. Applications for Membership or Associateship shall be made upon forms provided for that purpose; and the election shall be determined by vote at a Meeting of the Executive Committee.
6. The Honorary Officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and an Honorary Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer. The Honorary Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members in each year.
7. The Annual Meeting of Members shall elect twenty Members to form an Executive Committee, which shall carry on the business of the Society, and shall organize such Meetings and Congresses as it may be decided to hold.

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