

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

### REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION ON THE REGISTRATION OF MENTAL NURSES.



THE Committee appointed to consider the question of admitting, as members of the Association, Nurses trained and qualified to act as Nurses to cases of mental disease, beg to report to the Council as follows:—

"1. According to the 'Purposes and Powers' of the Association as set forth in the Charter, the Association has undoubtedly power to Register and place upon its list of members Nurses who are engaged in nursing cases of mental disease.

2. The Committee therefore recommend that advantage be taken of the power conveyed by the Charter, and that trained and qualified Mental Nurses be admitted as registered members of the Association under the following conditions:—

- (a) That no Mental Nurse shall be deemed eligible for admission as a member unless he or she has had three years' training in a recognised Lunatic Asylum or Hospital for the Insane, containing not less than 40 beds, or has had two years in such Hospital or Asylum, and one year in a General Hospital, and can produce such proof of professional education and moral character as the Council may prescribe.
- (b) Application for admission to the membership shall be made upon a special form provided for the purpose according to the Charter,
- (c) That the names of Asylum-trained Nurses shall be placed on the Register with the word '*Mental*' in brackets after each, to distinguish them from the purely Hospital-trained Nurses, or their names may be printed in a separate department.
- (d) That they shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as the other Nurses, and have the same status in the Association.

3. Your Committee have satisfied themselves that, in admitting Mental Nurses to its membership, the Association will be meeting a public want. They have had strong evidence that properly trained and reliable Mental Nurses of both sexes are in constant demand, that those only are available who are to a very large extent supplied by interested Nursing Institutions; and that the public have no independent means of ascertaining what their antecedents or training may have been, or whether they are qualified or not.

In the interests of the public, and of the Nurses themselves your Committee is of the opinion that their admission as members of the Royal British Nurses' Association is desirable, and that, by their admission, the Association will considerably extend its influence and sphere of usefulness.

(Signed) HELENA (President).  
FLORENCE S. CRAVEN.  
T. OUTTERSON WOOD.  
JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE.  
ED. A. FARDON.  
JOHN LANGTON."

October 16th, 1896.

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



WE would once more caution those members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, who are naturally indignant at the serious state of affairs in their Corporation to restrain their feelings and be patient, for a little longer. The irregularity of the proceedings of the General Council, the probability of their sanction being given to the retrograde step of placing

upon our Register the names of those who have not complied with the Regulations which have been in force since the termination of the period of grace in 1890, are matters which affect the public as well as the Nursing Profession, and will, we predict, have important consequences for Nurses, and give an enormous impetus to the demand for State Registration.

Two years ago, when the present régime was being initiated, and when the *ex-officio* Matrons were turned off the Council, we gave the advice to those who resented the policy now known as "depreciating the Matrons," "Do not resign." We repeat this advice—"do not resign, and we would add, do not stand aside."

Because those Nurses who love Liberty and Justice, and whose sense of self-respect compels them to resist what is tyrannous, unjust, and moreover illegal, appear at present to be in the minority, there is all the more reason that their colleagues who are in sympathy with this resistance should openly join the ranks of those who are determined, *at all costs*, to fight for that liberty of speech and conscience which the British people value with a passionate and resistless force.

We fought for, and won, the Royal Charter, granting to us definite rights and powers, and these rights and powers shall not be wrested from the few who understand and value their privileges, without a struggle. We therefore most earnestly advise all true and loyal members of the Royal British Nurses' Association to stand firm, shoulder to shoulder, and to contest, point by point, every attempt to deprive the Nurses of the rights which the pioneers of reform have won for them. We must remember that, as the only body of women in the Empire incorporated by Royal Charter, we

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