

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."

This scheme is quite "formal" enough, as it bestows the "status" of thoroughly-trained Nurses on persons who are *not* thoroughly trained, and Nurse members must not be lulled into a sense of security and inactivity by Mr. Fardon's present assertion.

As the scheme stands now:—

(1) The Governing Body of the Association has accepted the principle of placing Asylum Attendants without training in a General Hospital on the Register of Trained Nurses.

(2) The Governing Body of the Association has also authorised the Executive to admit to membership persons who are *not* Nurses.

(3) All that now remains to be done is for this same complaisant Governing Body to alter the Regulations for membership and Registration; and the rights and privileges for which British Nurses associated themselves, and for which they have worked so long and so patiently, will be wrested from them.

There must be no delusion on the part of Nurse members on the scheme. A "formal scheme" most detrimental to their interests has been "prepared"—and adopted by the governing body of the Association—and before those rights and privileges which we value so deeply are secure, that scheme "formally" proposed and "formally" adopted, must be "formally" rescinded.

In an answer by Dr. Outterson Wood to the letter from Dr. Walter Maine, which we reprinted from the *British Medical Journal* last week, we find the following misleading statement, to which we must take serious exception. Dr. Wood says, in attempting to refute Dr. Maine's logical argument—"He evidently cannot have read my letter or he would have found there never had been an attempt made to place 'untrained Asylum Nurses on the Register of Trained Nurses.' The proposal under consideration is that properly qualified Asylum trained Nurses shall, under certain conditions, be registered as a distinct class in a separate department of the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association."

We have here the kernel of the whole argument. Dr. Outterson Wood and the hon. officers of the Association are of opinion that women can be "properly qualified Nurses" for the insane by the training they at present receive in an Asylum, where they can obtain no clinical experience in the nursing of general

diseases. We trained Nurses have formed the opinion, after years of practical experience, that Nurses for the insane, with Nurses for all other diseases, should receive training in a general Hospital ward before they gain experience in nursing *special* diseases, such as infectious fevers, gynæcological cases and insanity.

Thus reduced to principle, Dr. Outterson Wood advocates the registration of *specialists* whose qualifications are not necessarily founded on a scientific basis of general nursing knowledge.

We trained Nurses claim that *specialism* is necessarily inefficient unless founded on a scientific basis of general nursing knowledge.

Our Association was founded by trained Nurses on this principle, and it has only been possible for Dr. Outterson Wood and the hon. officials to suggest such a retrograde and disastrous step as admittance on to the *Register of Trained Nurses* of persons who are no more Nurses, than dentists and chemists are physicians and surgeons, by depriving, as they have done, the Matrons of the leading Training Schools, of their *ex-officio* seats on the Governing Body, and therefore depriving them of their power to express an opinion on this question, which is of the deepest professional interest to all thoroughly qualified Nurses.

We specially allude to this deplorable fact because an anonymous correspondent, in the same issue of the *British Medical Journal*, states: "A movement has been set on foot to procure for those (Asylum Attendants) who attain the high standard of the Association (Medico-Psychological) the right to be placed on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the proposal has been unanimously adopted by the General Council."

We would ask—Who composes the present General Council? Certainly not those whose opinion should be at the disposal of their less experienced colleagues. With the exception of Miss Thorold, Vice-Chairman, *not one Matron of a London General Hospital Training School has a seat on, or a vote in, the Governing Body of her own professional Association*, and it is reported that it is packed quarterly with members of the Middlesex Hospital and Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Staffs, who *must* vote with the superior officers of the Institutions where they earn their daily bread.

It will be remembered that, out of twenty-nine vacancies to be filled on the General

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