

Annotations.

QUACK NURSES.

At a meeting of the Bradford and District Medico-Ethical Society a scheme was recently proposed and approved for starting a registration office for the unattached trained nurses and sick helps of the town. It is proposed that the Register shall include two classes, described as follows: "(1) Hospital trained nurses competent to nurse medical, surgical and monthly cases. These nurses would, on certain conditions, undertake day nursing and attend operations. (2) Sick helps, who are without hospital training, but are accustomed to undertake the care of sick people, frequently assisting with the work of the house. They fall into two classes, general sick helps and monthly sick helps." Misses Barton and Marshall have expressed their willingness to open a registry office at Eldon Mount Nursing Home, Eldon Place, Bradford.

It appears to us that this scheme cannot be too strongly deprecated. In the first place we must warn trained nurses against becoming members of a bureau in common with untrained persons, for their position must be one which will reflect adversely upon their professional skill and standing in the minds of the public, who, will inevitably associate them with the inefficient "sick helps." Further we should like to know what are the ethics of this Medico-Ethical Society of the town of Bradford. We should have supposed that an important rule would be to protect the sick from unskilled nursing. If the ethics of the society only lead the members to foist upon the public with the éclat of medical patronage, quack nurses, ignorant of the duties they are required to perform, the sooner this Society adopts a new code of ethics, at all events in relation to the patients, the better. Beyond their duty to the public, we should have supposed that these medical men owed some consideration to the hundreds of well-trained nurses in need of work, and would at least refrain from recommending ignorant women as nurses for the sick even at a low fee. If it is urged that pecuniary considerations necessitate the employment of these untrained women as attendants of the sick, we need only ask if the medical men of Bradford would be prepared to support a society of medical quacks organised to help them to treat their patients. We know they would not. Why then should

they afford facilities for the employment of quack nurses? We cannot too strongly deplore the fact that ladies in responsible positions in the Eldon Mount Nursing Home, and who presumably are patronized by the members of the Ethical Society, should have consented to support this ill-advised scheme to the prejudice of their own profession. We know something of nursing affairs in Bradford where an Association, "The Bradford Incorporated Nurses' Institution," has existed for years, and enforces the three years standard of training as a minimum qualification. If it is desirable that the unattached nurses should be organized in this town, cannot this Society, which has proved its sense of professional responsibility in the past, take action to bring the scattered forces into line on a sound professional basis?

VOX POPULI.

The passing of the second reading of the London Borough Councils (Women's Disabilities Removal) Bill on Wednesday in last week, in the House of Commons, by a majority of 119 was a triumph for those who are working in the cause of justice to women, and in the interests of the public welfare. We must, however, remember with regard to the London Borough Councils that the battle is not yet won, and that a dissolution may take place before the Committee stage is reached.

Mr. Lough, Member for Islington, who proposed the second reading of the Bill, gave a lucid and concise history of the London Borough Councils Bill up to the present time, in the course of which he pointed out that in recent years the Government offices had been obliged to call in the assistance of women; there were five women factory inspectors; five women inspectors in connection with the Education Department, who, he believed were shortly to be increased to twelve, and there were three women inspectors in connection with the Local Government Board. The universal testimony was that the work of women was valuable in local government, and the House should hesitate before it cast any stigma on such excellent public servants. All the time worn arguments meant to prove the inferiority of women were trotted out by our opponents, but upon a division being taken the House of Commons showed its common sense and voted by a large majority for the second reading of the Bill.

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