

should be defined, and the details left in the hands of the authority deputed by Parliament to deal with education and registration, to arrange as may from time to time seem desirable.

5. The proposal "To publish annually a Roll of Nurses who have been duly certified under the Act" is dangerously vague. Further, a Roll of Nurses is not necessarily a Register of Trained Nurses, and the nurse-members of the R.B.N.A. will do well to insist that in this clause it should be distinctly stated that the publication, whether a roll or a register, shall contain the names, addresses, and qualifications of the Registered Nurses. Considering that within the last few months the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. have, contrary to the powers of the Charter, reduced what was once a useful Register to an emasculated Roll, by deleting the addresses of the nurses whose names are inscribed in it, the danger involved by leaving this clause in its present undefined condition is not an imaginary one.

Again, having regard to the educational status of the nurses of the future, it appears to us quite unnecessary that they should be labelled with a badge, like motor cars. If it is presumed that the badge will act as a distinguishing mark of Registered Nurses, we may point out that no badge can be devised which cannot be so closely copied without legal infringement that it would be useless for the purpose intended.

Lastly, the suggestion to require a Board charged with the supervision of the education and registration of nurses "to inspect and register all private nursing homes" is as unpractical as it is unjust. This is work which undoubtedly will have to be undertaken by some such responsible public bodies as the county councils.

If these alterations were made in the Bill finally adopted by the Royal British Nurses' Association, it would matter very little which of the two Bills now drawn up became law, as the differences between them would then be infinitesimal. What is essential is that Registrationists should close up their ranks, so that legislation may be effected.

Opposition to the reform which Registration will make compulsory in many institutions which employ nurses, and in others which make large profits out of their earnings, must be anticipated—indeed, we hear that opposition is already being quietly organised—but we have no doubt that public opinion will support the nurses in their just demands.

Annotations.

"MOST ANCIENT, MOST USEFUL, AND MOST RENOWNED."

The Lord Mayor of London has drawn the attention of the public to the splendid works of charity accomplished in its eight hundred years of existence by St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He says:—

"In my appeal for support I would lay stress on the great antiquity of the hospital, which has carried on its beneficent work on the same site since 1123, or for nearly eight hundred years, and on the facts that no letters or other recommendations are ever required for the reception of the sick poor; that the numbers flocking to the hospital for relief show no signs of diminution, upwards of seven millions of patients having been relieved in the last fifty years; that St. Bartholomew's has not asked for help for more than a hundred and fifty years, and that it has been shown conclusively that the funds required must be obtained by an appeal to the public, unless the benefits of the hospital are largely reduced and wards closed at a time when the removal of a kindred institution is sure to bring on it extra work and pressure.

"In these circumstances, I feel considerable confidence that not only the citizens of London—'that pre-eminently wealthy square mile,' whose creation the hospital mainly is—but the public generally, will rally to the support of one of the most ancient, most useful, and most renowned of our institutions, a great charity, a great school, and an abiding monument of the far-seeing wisdom and benevolence of many generations of our ancestors."

The Lord Mayor also presided at an enthusiastic meeting held at the Mansion House on Tuesday last in support of the appeal for St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Treasurer, Sir Trevor Lawrence, stated the case for the hospital, and was ably supported by the Bishop of London, Sir William Church (President of the Royal College of Physicians and Senior Physician to the Hospital), Mr. John Tweedy (President of the Royal College of Surgeons), the Chief Rabbi, Mr. Campbell of the City Temple, and others. Alderman Treloar announced that £40,000 of the £438,000 needed had already been received or promised. We hope that, as a result of the Mansion House meeting, the entire sum will be quickly raised. No institution can show a better claim to public generosity than this hospital.

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