

Thus, he says that under Section 5 of the Bill it will be possible for the seven or eight medical members to draw up the whole of the rules and submit them to the Privy Council before the Registered Nurses or Matrons come on to the Council. Why? The nominated Matrons and Nurses can be appointed as soon as the nominated medical practitioners; of the former there are seven or eight, of the latter fourteen or fifteen, so that the nursing interest has been well safeguarded.

We fail to understand Dr. Berkeley's assertion that a member of the Council can be registered without any practical training, and in defiance of all the regulations that are to be made for registration.

The Bill expressly provides that every Nurse appointed or elected on to the Council "shall be eligible to be, and shall in due course be, registered under the provisions of this Act."

We have not space to deal *seriatim* with all Dr. Berkeley's objections to the Nurses' Bill. We may, however, point out that if he consulted the Medical Act of 1858 he would find the "novel" method of dealing with fines and penalties by paying them to the Treasurer of the Council therein incorporated; and his fears as to the payment of fees for attendance and travelling expenses to members of the Nursing Council may also be allayed on consulting the same authority. At any rate, we are of opinion nurses will consider that provisions which have worked satisfactorily for the medical profession for the last half-century are good enough for them.

In regard to the Bill, once that of the R.B.N.A., now that of Dr. Comyns Berkeley—for, the special general meeting notwithstanding, it has been radically altered at his discretion—the position would be serious, if nurses had not long ceased to take seriously anything the hon. officers of that Association may or may not do with regard to Registration. First they gave their support to the Association pledged to work for it; then Mr. Fardon, the then Medical Honorary Secretary, publicly voted against the principle. Subsequently, the hon. officers for eight years opposed it also. Suddenly, Mr. Fardon still protesting, they "verted" once more. Then they prepared the Synopsis of a Bill which was submitted to a special general meeting of members, and, with a few alterations, adopted. A second meeting, at which Mr. Fardon found no incongruity in presiding, met to consider the Bill when in Parliamentary form, when, hey presto! in the constitution of the Central Board, the representatives of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and the Matrons' Council had all been swept away. At the latter meeting, in spite of

explanations from Dr. Berkeley, an amendment was carried—as he notes, "almost unanimously"—providing that the rules and regulations under which the nurses will have to work should not be framed and adopted until the Central Board is fully constituted. "Nevertheless," says Dr. Berkeley, "I have taken the responsibility of not including it in the final draft of the Bill, as I am advised that its insertion would make the Bill absolutely unworkable, and not worth the paper it was written on. . . . The fact that I have rejected this amendment is of little consequence, since, if the Bill ever came up for discussion or passed, any of our members who still thought that the amendment should stand could have their wishes represented to Parliament, or the Privy Council, as the case may be"!

One thing we must say we appreciate in Dr. Berkeley's methods—he shoulders the responsibility for his own unconstitutional acts, and does not take shelter behind "Her Royal Highness the President," as was the wont of his immediate predecessors in office.

In whatever Bill is adopted, we think that the General Council should not be a small body; otherwise the fault in the management of the R.B.N.A., that of falling into the hands of a clique, might be repeated, with disastrous result. Further, it is probable that much of the work in Scotland and Ireland would be delegated to sub-committees of the members resident in those countries.

Whatever the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. do or do not do in regard to Registration will have very little influence on those nurses who have followed its history with regard to the movement. We can only congratulate the managers that they have once more given their adhesion to the principle for which the Association was founded, and no longer utilise it to oppose Registration.

### International Affiliation Conference.

An invitation has been sent by Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, to the Society for the State Registration of Nurses inviting it to send six representatives to the Conference on April 8th to consider the question of "Organisation with a view to International Affiliation." As the Society numbers about 1,100 members, the Hon. Secretary (20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.) will be glad to hear from any members who would like to attend.

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