

governors and nursing staff, but our court furnishes no evidence on this point.

at each nurse, of whatever rank, is compelled to subscribe from 5s. to £1 1s. annually to the League. To quote from "A Nursing Guide Book of Nurses' League, 1904," issued from hospital:—

*Associates.*—Every member of the nursing staff after three months' preliminary training is as a probationer of the hospital will become a full member, and will pay an annual subscription to the following scale:—

	£	s.	d.
and paying probationers in their first year ... ..	0	5	0
in their second year ... ..	0	10	0
in their third year ... ..	0	15	0
and Members of the Administrative Staff ... ..	1	1	0

appears plain enough.

Respondent is quite correct in her assumption that Leagues are strongly in favour of Nurses' Leagues, but claim that such Leagues to be of any use must be composed of Nurses, and that membership must be voluntary. The Guy's Nurses' League fulfils these essentials. Rule 3 lays down:—"The League as a whole, and the various sections of the League, shall be under the control of a Council consisting of the Treasurer, Superintendent, and two members of the Hospital *ex-officio*, three members elected annually by the House Committee, and two representatives of the Past Nursing Staff, and of the various sections of the League," which regulation cuts the very root of personal responsibility and professional independence for Guy's nurses.

Nurses' Leagues, composed entirely of graduate nurses who elect their own officers and manage their affairs, are proving of the utmost value in educating and training nurses in their duty to the profession as well as increasing their sense of personal responsibility. They are great factors for progress. But we must not use for so-called Leagues of Nurses composed of hospital officials, presidents, patrons, and patronesses the whole fardangle of patronage.

Controlled bodies of employees controlled by employers are not only useless as educative factors but dangerous to the profession or craft to which they belong, as they are not free agents where the welfare of the whole is concerned. To prove our case for nurses' self-governing Leagues in this country has been pronounced for State Registration; and our nurses are enthusiastic for National and International affiliation.

Now about Guy's League? As far as we know never considered this vital professional matter in short notes of refusal or no reply have been sent to its officials to every suggestion from their nurses for co-operation and sympathy (we previously nurse members were consulted), and it is at Guy's Hospital that one of the most daring attempts has been made to secretly obtain powers from the Board of Trade—which would enslave the profession of nursing at one fell swoop, and prevent the constructive organisation of nursing which has been carefully encouraged by free nurses for many years. If the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League has an ounce of vitality in it, let it meet and fight against the most dangerous and intolerable measure embodied in the "Memorandum" of

Association of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses." If it has neither the power nor inclination to act at this crisis, it cannot be taken seriously as a professional association of nurses.—Ed.]

#### A DANGEROUS MONOPOLY.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—It is not possible to describe the amazement with which I read the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the "Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses." It is a beautiful sounding title, and that alone will doubtless influence some who are willing to place their affairs in the hands of anyone so long as they are entirely outside the profession.

In this new scheme I want to know where the nurses come in? As I read the Articles it appears to me that there cannot possibly be any direct representation of the nurses. Doubtless, we shall be told that of course matrons and doctors will be on the first Council, and after that the members themselves will have the power of voting on their own choice.

But after the first general meeting the Council nominates the candidates, and, as by Article 51 any defect in the appointment of any member does not invalidate their proceedings, any and every kind of irregularity can be carried out with impunity.

Clause 17 most carefully provides that "The accidental omission to give notice to any members shall not invalidate any resolution passed at any such meeting."

To my mind these two clauses alone would be sufficient to condemn any society (accidents we know will sometimes happen, but when all such contingencies are so carefully thought out, and still more carefully provided for, doubts will cross one's mind in spite of oneself).

Article 52 actually makes it possible for a resolution to be merely passed round and signed; no meeting need be called to discuss the subject; and, as the powers of the Council or governing body are practically unlimited, this is a very serious matter. Also, under Article 48, the Council can delegate their powers to "any member or members of their body as they think fit," therefore, the whole Society could quite easily be governed by one or two individuals.

It is the Council of which only three may form a quorum that has the power "to make, alter, or repeal" bye-laws, regulations for examinations, &c. See Article 55, clause 5. The Council also fixes the standard of training fees, &c. In short, it appears to me that those who may become members of this Society will hand themselves over absolutely into the hands of a few Council members over whom they have no control whatever.

This is wrong. Everyone has the right to freedom of speech and action (or should have), and where their whole professional lives are at stake this should not be placed in the hands of any Council over which they have no control. I believe I am right in stating that in every self-governing League of nurses where the objects are simple and affect only a few people, no bye-law may be made, altered, or rescinded, and no member may be removed from the roll, except at a general meeting, with a much larger quorum than three. Also, I believe, any nurse whose name is to be removed can, if she will, defend herself; if this is

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