

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,407.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1915.

Vol. LIV

## EDITORIAL.

### THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PROFESSION OF MASSAGE.

The question of the organization of any body of skilled workers is one which demands their most earnest consideration, and is a subject which is now forcing itself upon the attention of those engaged in the practice of massage.

When a profession has attained a certain degree of skill we are strongly opposed to organization on any lines except those of State control, for our experience goes to prove that any attempt to dominate a body of women workers through an authority which has not full legal powers, and the responsibilities and publicity which such powers entail, may lead to an autocracy which sooner or later becomes questioned by those governed.

We are led to make these remarks by the correspondence recently published in this JOURNAL, and which we have been asked to criticise, between Mrs. Marriott Fox and the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, which has brought us further correspondence proving that Mrs. Fox is not alone in considering that there is "much that wants thorough ventilation" in the methods of that Society. This correspondence supports us in our belief that it is advisable for members of a profession to form a Society with the single object of working for an Act of Parliament which will define their educational standards, and protect their economic and professional status, taking care to provide that the body authorized by Parliament, to control their work and conduct, is largely composed of direct representatives, elected by members of the profession to be governed. As the great Rhodes once said "The Vote covers all," and without it any body of workers are very likely eventually to

find themselves in an invidious position whereby their rights and privileges may be jeopardized. Thus Mrs. Marriott Fox complains that, while she signed a Declaration undertaking to abide by all the rules and regulations of the above Society *with regard to the duties and conduct of masseuses*, she was recently notified of compulsory inspection of her school, and informed that if she did not comply her candidates would not be accepted for examinations.

Following upon Mrs. Marriott Fox's protest and resignation, we learn that an early member of the Society, who had held an official position, was not only struck off the Roll of Members with her partner, following on a difference with the Society with regard to its examinations, without any reason or previous notification given, but the fact was announced by public advertisement. When these ladies issued a writ against the Society in the King's Bench Division for breach of contract, the Society's solicitors wrote to their solicitor admitting on its behalf that his clients were still members of the I.S.T.M., and expressing its willingness to pay the costs of their action to that date. The injured members agreed to this proposal, but the result of the case having been stultified through not being the subject of a legal decision, is that they are still under the control of persons who have acted in this autocratic manner.

We consider that the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses would be wise to call a general meeting of members at which the members can express their opinions without prejudice. One thing is perfectly apparent—that all Members of Council should be proposed and seconded in writing for nomination by members of the Society, and that election at the annual meeting should be by ballot; otherwise it is inevitable that a feeling will be encouraged that the governing body is a close corporation;

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