

If, however, the Clause stands, it requires drastic modification, as the Chairman of the Council is also Returning Officer. Under this Clause he is constituted an absolute dictator, and there is no legal protection whatever, either for the candidates or the Electorate.

THE EXAMINATION OF MENTAL NURSES BY THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

The present position, arising out of the action of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in empowering an outside body—the Medico-Psychological Association—to nominate the Examiners in Mental Nursing for the State Examination, a responsibility entrusted to the Council under the Nurses' Registration Act, was discussed.

The action of the General Nursing Council was considered a violation of the Act and was severely condemned, as it was apparent that its action will result in placing all mental nurses in complete subjugation to the Medico-Psychological Association, to which Association Parliament has given no such authority.

It was agreed to send a strong protest to the General Nursing Council and to invite it to rescind its decision, so that the power of nominating Examiners should be reserved to the Council as intended by Parliament.

THE PRESCRIBED SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

The following Resolution was passed unanimously:—
"That the Minister of Health be asked to sign the prescribed Syllabus of Training prepared, and passed on two occasions, by the first General Nursing Council—as provided in the Nurses' Registration Act—and have it put into force at the earliest possible date. The members of the Matrons' Council are of opinion that it is illogical and unjust that nurses should be required to submit themselves for a prescribed Syllabus of Examination without an equal obligation being placed upon Hospitals approved by the Council, to provide the training necessary, under a prescribed Syllabus of Training in accordance with the Act."

The Matrons present realised that it was their duty to claim for their profession all the privileges granted them in the Nurses' Registration Act.

The meeting then terminated, and a bountiful tea was enjoyed in the Club Restaurant.

THE IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association was held on January 23rd at the Rotunda, Dublin. The members were entertained to tea by the Matron, Miss Ford. Miss Huxley was elected President, Miss Power Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Reeves Hon. Secretary, for the year 1924. A discussion took place as to the best method of conducting nurses' practical examinations.

Miss Thornton, the Matron, invited the members of the Association to meet at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital on April 10th, 1924.

The Irish Matrons' Association is affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and it is hoped will take an active part in the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors next year.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland (affiliated to the International Council of Nurses) has been invited to nominate a representative on to the General Committee of the Women's Section of the British Empire Exhibition (1924).

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President N.C.T.N., has consented to act.

The readers of the *B.J.N.*—the "alive," self-governing wing of the Nursing profession—have always taken an active interest in Imperial and International affairs, and we shall keep them well informed of the hospitable intentions of the Women's Section of the Imperial Exhibition, which opens at Wembley in April.

The ladies of the Royal Family are giving their support to this Section, Her Majesty the Queen acting as Patron.

GREETINGS FROM BELGIUM.

The Comtesse Louise d'Ursel, Fédération Nationale des Infirmières, Belges, which is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, sends greetings for 1924 from that Association to the members of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. They are heartily reciprocated.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on January 23rd. Councillor Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., President, was in the chair.

The two items of urgent importance on the Agenda were (1) To consider action *re* the amended scheme for the election of the Direct Representatives of the Registered Nurses on the General Council for England and Wales, and (2) To consider action to have Section 3 (2) (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act put into force, to secure "Prescribed Training" for Probationers. The Council agreed on the policy to be pursued.

A PUBLIC MEETING.

AN APPEAL TO THE LOYAL NURSES OF ENGLAND.

The situation which has arisen in respect of the State Registered Nurses of England and Wales, and the General Nursing Council, has become so serious that I am calling a Public Meeting to discuss it, on Wednesday, February 13th, at 5 p.m., in the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.1. *I most earnestly appeal to the spirit of loyalty and esprit de corps, which I know exists among Nurses, that they will make every effort to attend, even if it puts them to a little inconvenience. The professional and economic rights of Nurses are so deeply involved in this incredibly unfair and dangerous situation that I feel I shall not appeal in vain. I trust that Nurses will not come singly, but that they will bring others with them, especially those who know little of the matter.*

BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N.,

President, Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES. IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the end of March.

Nomination Papers for Officers and Council will not be sent out, but can be obtained at the Office. Notice is hereby given that all nominations duly proposed and seconded according to the Rules must be received at the Office not later than Noon, Friday, February 15th, 1924.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)