

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE NURSING SERVICES.

The following correspondence has taken place between the Secretaries of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services and the Association. We insert it in order that the Members may understand the position.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION,
194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.
November 5th, 1937.

THE RIGHT HON. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,
Ministry of Health, Whitehall.

SIR,—I am instructed to write and enquire whether you will be so good as to appoint a representative from this Association when you form your Commission to enquire into nursing conditions. The Corporation is the oldest organisation of nurses, it has taken a leading part in all questions affecting the profession for many years, and it is a body incorporated by Royal Charter. We greatly hope that our request may receive your favourable consideration.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ISABEL MACDONALD, Secretary.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
November 9th, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,—Sir Kingsley Wood asks me to thank you for your letter of November 4th about the Committee which is to enquire into conditions of employment in the nursing profession. Sir Kingsley fears that it has not proved possible to give direct representation on the Committee to the several Nursing Associations, but as you will see from the notice which is appearing in the Press, a number of members of the nursing profession are included.

Yours faithfully,
S. N. HEARDER, Private Secretary.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION,
194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.
December 10th, 1937.

S. N. HEARDER, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the Minister of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

SIR,—Further to your letter of November 9th, and after hearing from many members of the Association their views on the discussion which took place in the House of Commons on December 3rd, I am instructed to say that the Members of the Association deplore the Minister's decision to exclude the Nurses' Organisations from direct representation on the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services.

We much hope that this decision will be reconsidered, and we would press again for representation for this Association. I am to point out that it has taken a leading part, since its foundation, in all matters relating to the organisation of the nursing profession, that it is a body

incorporated by Royal Charter and the oldest organisation of nurses in existence.

I am, Yours faithfully,
ISABEL MACDONALD, Secretary.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

December 16th, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,—Sir Kingsley Wood asks me to thank you for your further letter of the 10th December about representation on the Committee on Nursing, and in reply to say that he regrets that after further and full consideration he cannot see his way to add to the number of the Committee in the manner which you suggest.

Yours faithfully,
S. N. HEARDER, Private Secretary.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

December 8th, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,—We are directed by the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services to inquire whether your Association would be prepared to submit for the Committee's consideration a memorandum of evidence. The terms of reference of the Committee are: "To inquire into the arrangements at present in operation with regard to the recruitment, training, registration and terms and conditions of service of persons engaged in nursing the sick and to report whether any changes in those arrangements or any other measures are expedient for the purpose of maintaining an adequate service both for institutional and for domiciliary nursing."

The Committee contemplate that after they have considered the memorandum they will determine whether your Association should be invited to give evidence orally.

The next meeting of the Committee has been fixed for January 19th, 1938, and it would be a great convenience if 40 copies of any memorandum you may desire to submit could reach us on or before January 12th.

Yours faithfully,
W. DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS,
W. A. B. HAMILTON,
Secretaries.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION,
194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

December 30th, 1937.

DEAR SIR,—I thank you for your letter of the 8th inst., which has been placed before my Executive Committee. In view of the fact that the Association is not represented on the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services and cannot therefore participate in the deliberations and discussions of that Committee, my Committee have decided that the suggested Memorandum would prove of little practical value in relation to the views of the Association on the matters which are to receive consideration.

I am, Yours faithfully,
ISABEL MACDONALD, Secretary.

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