

UNREST IN THE NURSING PROFESSION.

We earnestly advise those who read the following paragraphs to also study and carefully consider the reports to which they refer published in this issue of the JOURNAL, as it is the duty of every Registered Nurse at this crisis to realise the force of the demands upon the part of the public and the press, and of groups of nurses themselves, for reorganisation and reform, not only on an economic but humanitarian basis, and for what is infinitely important, the freedom of conscience of every individual nurse, whatever her status in the nursing profession.

I.

THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE NURSING SERVICES.

The constitution of the Committee, excluding effective representation of the Nurses' Organisations from participation in the consideration of their own affairs, and the consequent correspondence in *The Times* makes evident the strong feeling which has been aroused and the reactionary attitude of the Government. We learn that the Minister of Health availed himself of professional opinion, presumably exclusive in the extreme. The very greatest measure possible of expert nursing opinion should have been available on the Committee, *to weigh the evidence*. As it is the profession may be legislated for practically unheard.

II.

THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

In another column we reprint, for the benefit of members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, extracts from the London Branch *News Sheet* of the College of Nursing, in which is reported a Resolution and the discussion thereon, which in effect is a proposal to adopt as a Scheme of College organisation the fundamental basis of the organisation of the National Council of Nurses in so far as its relations with groups of Registered Special Nurses are concerned, and thus inevitably arouse criticism and opposition among the member organisations of nurses, not necessarily members of the College of Nursing.

The Constitution of our National Council is based on as free a government as possible, and its primary objects are:—

OBJECTS.

1. To promote mutual understanding and unity between Associations of Nurses in Great Britain.
2. Through affiliation with the International Council of Nurses to acquire knowledge of nursing conditions in every country, to encourage a spirit of sympathy with the nurses of other nations, and to afford facilities for National hospitality.
3. To promote the educational, the economic, and other interests of the Nursing profession.
4. To increase the usefulness of the Trained Nurse as a social factor.

ELIGIBILITY.

Associations of Nurses of not less than 50 members, having the following qualifications, shall be eligible for affiliation with the National Council:—

1. Associations composed of graduates of Schools of Nursing connected with Voluntary and Municipal General Hospitals approved as Training Schools for Nurses by the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland.

2. Professional Associations of State Registered Nurses formed for the benefit of nurses, the members of which hold professional qualifications acceptable to the Council.

3. Associations composed of graduates of approved Training Schools for (1) Male Nurses, (2) Mental Nurses, (3) Nurses for Mental Defectives, (4) Sick Children's Nurses, (5) Fever Nurses, who are registered on the appropriate Supplementary Parts of the Registers maintained by the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland. One Association to represent each group.

Each Association nominates its own President and delegates, and under provision 3 all organised specialists, with the exception of the Male Nurses' Association, are affiliated to the National Council, which includes forty-five groups. Thus, the Registered Mental Nurses and the Registered Fever Nurses, many of whom have dual qualifications, have equal rights and privileges with their colleagues on the general part of the Register.

It is to be hoped that the Council of the College of Nursing will not adopt a policy calculated to sow dissension in the ranks of the National Council of Nurses, which has so recently proved its value in its relations with the International Council of Nurses with which it is affiliated.

III.

"DO NURSES GET A SQUARE DEAL?"

Under the above heading, *Time and Tide*, an independent non-Party Review, in which the views and welfare of women are well to the fore, has for the past month given valuable space for a discussion on nursing affairs under the heading "Do Nurses Get a Square Deal?" In the issue of February 5th, the Editor says "No," emphatically and comes to this conclusion after granting space for Trades Union opinion, special pleading by an official of the College of Nursing, and the considered opinion of a medical man, who realises that the nursing question is becoming more and more acute to the serious detriment of the public.

SOUVENIRS OF THE CONGRESS.

The Souvenirs offered by the Congress Arrangements Committee, I.C.N., for acceptance by Miss M. A. Gullan, Miss A. M. Bushby, and Miss J. Digby-Pigott as a small recognition of their untiring and very successful work in helping to organise the Quadrennial Meeting in London in July last, have been received with pleasure, and warm thanks expressed. To Miss Gullan was presented a beautiful antique cream jug, dated 1769, made by John Morton; to Miss Digby-Pigott, a similar gift, dated 1768, made by the same celebrated silversmith; and to Miss Bushby, a small antique silver salver, dated 1797, made by Daniel Leader.

We hope, when in use, these three ladies will experience a slight sense of compensation for the long hours of work so cheerfully performed. Anyway, their colleagues have awarded the souvenirs with sincere gratitude.

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