

No rules made under this section shall have effect until the same have been approved by His Majesty's Privy Council.

PROVISION FOR EXISTING NURSES.

15. Any person who, within two years from the commencement of this Act, claims to be certified thereunder shall be so certified provided such person is at least 21 years of age, and (1) holds a three years' certificate of training from a hospital approved by the Council, and is of good character, or (2) produces evidence of training satisfactory to the Council, and has been for at least three years in *bona-fide* practice as a nurse, and is of good character. At the expiration of the said term of two years, any nurse claiming to be certified under this Act shall have completed a three years' term of training in hospital wards approved of by the Council, and shall verify his or her qualifications for being so certified by such means as the Council may prescribe.

FEES AND EXPENSES.

16. There shall be payable by every candidate for examination or registration such fee as the Council may, with the approval of His Majesty's Privy Council, from time to time determine, such fee not to exceed the sum of two guineas. All fees, fines, and penalties paid or recovered under this Act shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Council, and shall be devoted to the payment of expenses connected with the examination of candidates, and to the general expenses of the Council, and of carrying this Act into execution. The Council shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, publish a statement made up to that date, audited and certified as correct by an accountant, who shall be a member either of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or of the Incorporated Society of Accountants, and showing the receipts and expenditure during the year and also the assets and the liabilities of the Council at the aforesaid date.

17. There shall be paid to the members of the Council such fees for attendance and such reasonable travelling expenses as shall from time to time be allowed by the Council.

18. From and after the commencement of this Act, any person who attempts to personate any nurse certified under this Act, or who, not being certified thereunder, takes or uses the name or title of Registered Nurse (either alone or in combination with any other word or words, or letters), or any name, title, addition, or description implying that he or she is certified under this Act, or is recognised by law as a Registered Nurse, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 10 pounds, or in default thereof to three months' imprisonment.

19. From and after the commencement of this Act, no person who assumes to be a Registered Nurse shall be entitled to sue for or recover any charge in any court of law for any nursing assistance or attendance on the sick unless such person proves that he or she is registered under this Act.

20. A copy of The Nursing Register, purporting to be printed by the Authority of the Council, shall be evidence in all courts of law that the nurses whose names are therein specified are registered under this Act; and the absence of the name of any nurse from the said Register shall be evidence, until the contrary be made to appear, that such nurse is not registered under this Act. Provided always, that in the case of any nurse whose name does not appear in such Register, a certificate under the hand of the Registrar of the Council that the name of such nurse has been entered on the Register shall be evidence that such nurse has been duly registered under this Act.

PENALTY FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE BY FALSE REPRESENTATION.

21. Any person who (1) procures or attempts to procure a certificate under this Act by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false and fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or

otherwise, or (2) wilfully makes or causes to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the Register of Trained Nurses, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall on conviction thereof be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding 12 months.

PROSECUTION OF OFFENCES.

22. Any offences under this Act may be prosecuted by authority of the Council.

23. Any registered nurse aggrieved by a decision of the Council removing his or her name from the Register of Trained Nurses may appeal therefrom to the High Court of Justice within three months from the notification of such decision; and such appeal shall be final.

24. This Act shall not be construed to affect or apply to the gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends or members of a family, and also it shall not apply to any person attending the sick for hire but who does not in any way assume to be a registered nurse.

25. Nothing contained in this Act shall be considered as conferring any authority to practise medicine or to undertake the treatment or cure of disease.

The Nurses' Bill before the House.

At last those nurses who for so many years have been working for the organisation of their profession see some definite result of their labours. On Monday, the 15th February, 1904, the "Bill to regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their Registration," promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, was introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. R. Farquharson, Member for West Aberdeenshire, and read for the first time. The thanks of all trained nurses are due to Dr. Farquharson, and those gentlemen who are supporting him, for bringing in the Bill, the effect of which will be of far-reaching consequence not only to nurses, but to the public who depend upon them for efficient care in sickness.

When the Bill becomes law, the minimum standard of education qualifying for recognition as a trained nurse will for the first time be defined and enforced, and the public will be able to discriminate between those who have and have not attained this standard. How essential this is, only those who know how important a factor good nursing is in the recovery of a patient can estimate.

Therefore Dr. Farquharson, and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses which is promoting the Bill, have done a public service, the full value of which will be estimated only by future generations. It now remains for all supporters of the movement to put their shoulders to the wheel and to work hard until the Bill becomes law.

Every member of the Society can help to form public opinion on this subject—and it is public opinion which carries a Bill through—by showing the public that the efficiency of nurses is a matter of vital concern to all, and by inducing nurses who are not yet members of the Society formed to obtain Registration to join it without delay, so that Parliament may be impressed by the fact that nurses are really in earnest.

State Registration of Nurses, March 1904.

The following manifesto, drawn up by Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, has been signed by employers of nurses, and by Matrons who have ranged themselves on the side of the employer, and who are opposed to the elevation of nursing into a recognised profession, organised and controlled by State authority, for the benefit of nurses and the protection of the public:—

THE MANIFESTO

We, the undersigned, feel called upon to make the following statement in view of the steps that are being taken to obtain, by Act of Parliament, a State Registration of Nurses.

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