

**'Royal British Nurses' Association.**

*(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)*

**THE SCOTTISH BRANCH.**



IT has been officially announced, and received with the utmost gratification amongst the founders of the Royal British Nurses' Association, that for the future no Nurse will be admitted to the Scottish Branch of the Association who has not conformed to the three years' term of training exacted by the Executive Committee in London; it is, moreover, stated (and we rejoice to hear it) that the dispensing clause of a further period of grace in Scotland has never been exercised by the Scottish Registration Board.

It will be remembered that when the Scottish Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association was inaugurated in Edinburgh in 1893, which was before the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, power was taken by the eminent physicians and surgeons who were good enough to interest themselves in the matter, to accept such standard and term of training for registration as seemed to them necessary, and that the period of grace for admittance on to the Scottish roll should be extended for a further period, it having been closed in England in 1891.

The General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the inauguration of the Scottish Branch acceded to these terms, as a certain licence must always be granted in the commencement in any country of a professional organisation, but, as is always the case, there were members of the Executive Committee in London who differed in opinion concerning this concession (difference of opinion being a sure sign of healthy vigour in young professional bodies), and who based their objections upon the following grounds:—

When the British Nurses' Association undertook to inaugurate a voluntary system of Registration, preparatory to applying to the Privy Council for Incorporation by Royal Charter, it granted a certain period of grace during which time all Nurses of good character, who had been engaged in nursing the sick for three years might apply to have their names enrolled. The term of grace ended, and the regulation for Registration exacted that a Nurse should have been trained in Hospitals for three years. Amongst the founders of the British Nurses' Association were several well-known Matrons of important Scottish Hospitals; women who even before any attempt at professional organisation was made, had inaugurated the three years' system of training in the Nursing Schools over which they presided. These ladies took an active part in founding our professional Association, and submitted regularly the names of pupils trained for three years under their superintendence, for enrolment upon our Register. This system continued to work satisfactorily, as far as it went, for some time.

In 1892 the Scottish Branch was started—claiming, however, the further extension of a period of grace for Scottish Nurses. The result of that claim has been that Nurses who have attained the distinction of a three years' training and certification have not applied to be registered by the Scottish Board, but have sent their applications direct to the Registration Board in

London, desiring naturally to be classed with those who have conformed to the higher standard of training and efficiency. This appeared to be in the past the inevitable result of a further period of grace being granted to Scotland, and we feel sure that the decision of the Scottish Branch to exact the maximum term of training (three years in a hospital), is the only means by which they can inspire the best trained Nurses with confidence, and by which they can make those Nurses content to be registered by their own National Board. We are of opinion that the Secretary of the Scottish Branch would do well to make the fact officially known to the Matron of every Scottish Hospital that the three years' training only will entitle to registration in Scotland; this would do much to remove the feeling which at present exists, that the opinions of the original Scottish members of the Royal British Nurses' Association were not sufficiently considered in granting the further period of grace to Scotland, when they had for some time attained the higher standard of training exacted by the Central Board in London.

We have commented upon this subject at some length, as we have during the last year received in our editorial capacity many letters from Scottish members of our Association on the subject, with which, however, it was somewhat difficult to deal so long as we accepted an official column concerning its work from our Association. Now that it is distinctly understood that the opinions expressed in this column are entirely independent and unofficial, and do not pledge any fellow member, it is possible in such matters as these to permit a free discussion.

**Nursing Echoes.**

\* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE have been somewhat disappointed that so few Nurses have entered into competition for the prizes offered in this Journal for notes of the Nursing Treatment of Cases, because we feel sure there are a large number of our readers, who, by taking notes of the patients they nurse and publishing their observations, would not only be doing much to educate themselves, but would also be placing before their colleagues facts of the utmost value.

We have received several letters on the subject, and in the majority we find that those who wish to compete suffer from an overwhelming modesty and "fear their notes would not be of any particular value," or "not good enough for publication," or "others could do so

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