

would be the active working body, and would consist, firstly, of the fifteen direct representatives of the Registered Nurses; secondly, of the two representatives of the Privy Council; thirdly, of the five medical representatives, and fourthly, of a certain number of the representatives of the Nurse Training Schools. And here arises the difficulty to which we have before alluded. There are certain Hospitals which undoubtedly from their great public importance, or their influence in the Nursing world, should be directly and permanently represented upon the Executive Board as well as upon the General Nursing Council. For example, St. Bartholomews, Guy's, St. Thomas's, and the London Hospitals in the metropolis; the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the Royal Infirmarys of Liverpool and Manchester, and, at least, one of the Hospitals in Dublin—should certainly be permanently represented on the Executive Board. That would mean nine direct representatives of the leading Training Schools on the Executive Board. The remaining ninety representatives of Hospitals on the General Nursing Council might, we will assume, elect nine of their number to act upon the Executive Board, and thus the latter body would consist of forty members—a number by no means too large for active work, and yet sufficiently representative of all the many interests involved.

The Nursing Council, we assume, would meet at least once in each year, would possess the controlling power in the determination of all matters affecting Nursing education and discipline, would decide upon the curriculum of education through which every Nurse must pass before she could be eligible for Registration; would decide upon the Regulations to be fulfilled, the Examinations to be passed, the Certificates to be produced, and the fees to be paid, by applicants for Registration; would indicate to the Executive Board the chief lines of its work, and would, in fact, become the consultative and governing body of the Nursing profession, by which all educational measures would be discussed and settled, and which would finally act as a Court of Appeal in all cases of discipline.

The Executive Board, on the other hand, would, we assume, meet as frequently as might be found necessary, would carry out the decisions of the Council, would supervise the work of Registration, would investigate the system of Nursing education in the various Training Schools and would report to the Council, from time to time, the methods in which these Schools conducted their work. It is probable that to this Board would finally fall the duty also of appointing examiners to co-operate with the

authorities of each Training School in the examination and certification of their pupils; and that finally one uniform certificate, as sanctioned by the Board, would be granted to all Nurses who successfully satisfied the examiners and their Hospital authorities as to their professional knowledge and their personal character.

The mistake of having many systems of examination and of certification by a number of diverse bodies, each with its own standard of professional efficiency, which has been found to be so detrimental in the medical profession, will, we hope, be obviated in the case of Nurses, and we imagine that one of the first duties thrown upon the General Nursing Council would be the determination of the vital question of one uniform and national system and standard.

But in the framing of the Nursing Act, to which we are looking forward, we imagine that the first part will consist of the definition of the constitution of the General Nursing Council, and of the Executive Board, and that one or two clauses will be sufficient to give to the bodies thus constituted, the necessary power and authority to decide, first, as to the educational curriculum through which all Nurses must pass, and as to the various other requirements which they must fulfil before the Council can sanction their Registration. All details concerning this curriculum, as to examinations, or as to fees, would doubtless be left for the Council to determine and to alter from time to time, as might, in future, appear desirable.

Then one or more clauses would be required giving legal authority and power to the Executive Board, subject to appeal to the Council, to remove from the Register the name of any Nurse who might prove herself unworthy to remain thereon, by reason either of moral delinquency or of professional misconduct. There is no necessity to go into much detail, even on this point, and the clauses to which we allude would, doubtless, be broadly drawn. The removal of a Nurse's name from the Register—in other words, the ruin of her professional career—is so vital a matter to herself, and so important in every way to the profession and to the public, that it may be taken for granted that the Executive Board would never take such a step except upon grounds which admitted of no dispute, and the justice of which they could defend, if necessary, in any Court of Law. And, moreover, various experiences of the General Medical Council have proved that registered persons have a legal remedy if they can show that, in any way, the removal of their names has been performed except under a sense of the most serious responsibility and in a manner entirely judicial and free from any personal bias or feeling.

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