

The Registration of Asylum Attendants as Trained Nurses.

WE have been requested to state that a meeting will be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, on Thursday, January 7th, 1897, at 4 p.m., when the following Resolution will be placed before the meeting:—

“That this meeting condemns the suggestion accepted by the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to admit to membership, and to place upon the Register of Trained Nurses, Asylum Attendants who have not been trained in General Hospitals, and who do not conform to the regulations for membership and registration; and this meeting considers that such a course would be both injurious to the Nursing profession and dangerous and misleading to the public.”

We have also received the following letter from Miss Sophia Wingfield, to which we have great pleasure in giving publicity. The Resolution we at once signed and returned, although we hope to take part in the Meeting, and we sincerely hope that all Matrons and Nurses who have received the Resolution from Miss Wingfield will sign and return it to her—whether they are able to attend the meeting in St. Martin's Town Hall or not.

DEAR MADAM,—I venture to write to you concerning the attempt now being made by the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to place untrained Asylum Attendants on the Register of Trained Nurses, in case you are unaware of the scheme.

It appears to me that should such a retrograde step be taken, the greatest injustice will be done to those Nurses who have given up years of their life to thoroughly qualify themselves for their responsible duties; also that once the Asylum Attendants are admitted as registered members of the Corporation of Trained Nurses, the public will have no means of protecting themselves against untrained persons.

Neither the Executive Committee, nor the Registration Board, nor the Corporation in General Meeting, have been consulted by the Hon. Officers concerning this important question, and I feel with many others that at this critical moment, nothing remains for the members but to unite and act in self-defence.

I therefore most earnestly appeal to you to join me in protesting against this scheme, by attending a public meeting on the subject, which will be held in St. Martin's Town Hall on Thursday, January 7th, at 4 p.m.

If unable to be present at this meeting, and if you are in sympathy with this protest, would you kindly put your name to the enclosed resolution which is to be placed before the meeting; and return it to me to the above address not later than Monday, December 28th.

In any case, I should esteem it a favour if you would

kindly let me have a reply to this letter, stating your views on the subject, by the date mentioned.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

SOPHIA G. WINGFIELD, M.R.B.N.A.

Member of the General Council,
Late Matron of the County Hospital, Ayr, N.B.,
and of the General Infirmary, Macclesfield.

6, The Orchard,
Bedford Park, London, W.
December 12th, 1896.

From the *British Medical Journal* we reprint the following letter from Dr. John Biernacki—who is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association—and we feel sure that all those trained Nurses who have worked for and value professional progress will join us in feeling grateful to Dr. Biernacki for placing thus clearly before the medical profession the suggestion made by Dr. Outterson Wood and the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to place upon the Register of Trained Nurses male and female Asylum Attendants who have not qualified, under the existing Regulations, for the privileges of Membership and Registration of the Association. And we hope that the result of his letter will be that those members of the medical profession who thoroughly appreciate qualified Nurses, and who in the past have done so much to make them useful members of the body politic, will help us to prevent the disastrous suggestion in question from being carried into effect:—

“THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

SIR,—During the last few years half-trained Nurses, in spite of many counteracting influences, have increased rather than diminished in number. This unsatisfactory state of things is chiefly due to the multiplication of inferior “Homes,” which, entering into competition with each other, and underselling the better-class institutions, provide the public with private Nurses at a minimum fee. Many of these Nurses are obtained from fever Hospitals, Asylums, Convalescent Homes, and other Institutions where the training is incomplete, or only nominal. When the economical committee of an under-staffed Hospital temporarily engages this cheaper type of private Nurse, the ward test soon reveals her deficiencies, and if her work is unsatisfactory under constant supervision, who can measure the harm she does when sent out to private cases of all kinds, and only visited by the medical attendant once or twice a day?

Reform in this matter is indicated by the steadily growing distinction which has arisen between the half-trained and the fully-trained Nurse. The Royal British Nurses' Association has done much to strengthen the position of the fully-qualified Nurse, and its membership has come to be regarded as proof of a satisfactory general training. Any change, therefore,

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