

up by a Sub-Committee composed of Mrs. Dacre Craven, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Mr. Fardon, Mr. John Langton, and Dr. Outterson Wood. This matter has never been brought before, or discussed in, the Executive Committee, and members of the Executive Committee have been definitely refused any information concerning the deliberations of this Sub-Committee, which has had the subject under consideration for five months; and in the Report submitted by Dr. Woods to the General Council in October ignoring the Executive Committee, and printed in the official organ of the Association, no mention is made of the Medico-Psychological Association, a separate department in the Register, or a distinctive badge. So it appears that the Regulations "under which Asylum Attendants shall be admitted" are to be dictated to the 2,700 members by the five persons mentioned above. We emphasize this fact as positive proof of the attempted absolute autocracy of the Hon. Officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which has now compelled an "Indignation" Meeting to be convened by the Nurse members to protest against the ruin of their professional work and status.

Now, we will analyse Dr. Outterson Wood's five reasons for placing persons who are specialists on a Register of Trained Nurses—that is, persons who can have no clinical experience of General Nursing. He gives his reasons under five heads.

"First, because they are a large and important body of thoroughly-trained Nurses in their special branch of Nursing." Now, here is the crux of the whole case. They are either "thoroughly-trained Nurses"—that is, persons who have worked in the medical and surgical wards of a General Hospital, and by clinical experience gained sound experience in the Nursing of all kinds of medical and surgical cases—or they are only qualified in "their special branch of Nursing." Our argument is that Asylum Attendants, in spite of attending lectures and passing examinations in elementary anatomy and physiology, are "specialists," and that, therefore, they are not eligible to be placed upon a Register of Trained Nurses any more than dentists and chemists are eligible—without passing through a general medical education—to be placed on the Medical Register.

DUTY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Again, we are informed that those Asylum Attendants who pass the examinations prescribed "are put on the Register of the Medico-Psychological Association." Our answer is that, as this body practically governs the

education of Asylum Attendants, and examines and certifies them, it is the body to register them. Let the Medico-Psychological Society, therefore, issue a printed Register of those persons whom they choose to guarantee as efficient qualified Asylum Attendants, or Mental Nurses. This is only just and fair. Why should the Royal British Nurses' Association admit to membership and registration persons who do not conform to the Regulations of the Association, and by so doing inaugurate a most dangerous system of recognising specialists as Trained Nurses. If Asylum Attendants are admitted, we cannot refuse Midwives, Monthly Nurses, Fever, and other Nurses. A separate department on the Register, a separate badge, the addition of M.N. to the letters R.B.N.A., are futile suggestions. Once admitted to membership and registration on the Trained Nurses' Register, these persons are, before the law—*Registered Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association*, and can act as such.

TRAINING OF NURSES FOR THE SICK INSANE.

Secondly, Dr. Wood says: "Hospital-trained Nurses without Asylum training will not—and cannot—undertake the Nursing of mental cases." Quite so. Then why make it probable—and very possible—that Asylum Attendants can undertake the Nursing of general medical and surgical cases—because that is what many of them will do, and actually attempt at the present time. The answer to this objection—and the answer also to the widely expressed complaint that the sick imbecile and insane in our asylums are not nursed under existing arrangements in the most efficient manner—is that all Asylum Attendants who are to be placed in charge of the *sick* insane should be thoroughly trained Nurses, having gained their experience in the only place where it is to be obtained, in the General Hospital ward; they would then be fitted to profit by the special training which they would further gain in the Asylums for the mentally afflicted.

DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING.

Thirdly, we are told that in Asylums, owing to keeping of the male and female patients apart, the Nursing of the patients is bound to be undertaken by Nurses of both sexes under the direct tuition and training of the medical staff. We are told "the position of Matron in a General Hospital, where she can superintend the whole Nursing of the Institution, cannot obtain in an Asylum." It is not possible, therefore, to have the necessary supervision as in Hospitals, so that the discipline which results from this supervision—which is the key-note of good training—is lacking in the education of the

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