

Our Foreign Letter.

NURSING POLITICS IN AMERICA.



WE have been requested to publish the following circular:

"Within the past few months an association of Nurses has

been formed in the city of New York, calling itself the "Nurses' Protective Association of the State of New York." The originator and chief force in this association is a masseuse, a trained nurse, holding a diploma from a Swedish training school.

The formation of this association would not call for any notice, still less for any interference, if it were not for the fact that it has announced its intention of applying for the passage of a state law regulating the practice of massage; fixing a standard by which training schools for Nurses are to be recognized, and requiring the registration of trained Nurses.

The two last-named purposes of the association are deemed objectionable and call for interference on several grounds, as for example:

1. The association itself is not a representative body:

(a) It is not composed of alumnae associations, nor of delegates duly authorized to represent such associations.

(b) It does not number among its members a single training school superintendent or head of hospital.

(c) It has not made any systematic or general attempt to include schools or Nurses outside of New York City and its immediate neighbourhood.

2. The methods by which it has been organized, and its proposed legislation formulated, have been unparliamentary and opposed to fair play.

3. The legislation it seeks is hasty, premature, and inefficient:

(a) Instead of a Bill expressing the deliberate best judgment of a well-organized, well-established representative body, we have the hastily expressed opinion of an association but a few months old, called together for the purpose of pushing a Bill primarily arranged to promote the interest of massage operators.

(b) It is too soon to begin legislation for the nursing profession; we are just in process of forming standards, and do not want existing insufficient standards crystallized by being recognized by statute.

(c) The provisions of the Bill relating to standards of nursing, having been amended in meetings of the association named, are inadequate. They stand thus: A hospital of any number of beds is recognized, a seventy-five bed limit (the minimum first proposed) having been done away with by amendment. A course of less than two years is recognized (providing a post-graduate course is taken, it is not stated where or how), the two-year limit having been done away with by amendment. As the only kind of legislation that will benefit the nursing profession will be such as will tend to force poor schools to raise their standards, this is useless.

At a meeting held in New York City, April 24th, 1897, the following was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That training schools of standing protest against such legislative action, that they employ every honourable means to prevent it, and that graduate Nurses be counselled not to further the growth of the association described at the outset of this circular.

Agnes S. Brennan, Superintendent, New York Training School for Nurses, Bellevue Hospital, New York City.

G. C. Barnhardt, Superintendent, Training School for Nurses, St. John's Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

M. F. Dean, Superintendent, Training School for Nurses, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City.

M. Doyle, Superintendent, Training School for Nurses, St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

E. Maude Ellis, Superintendent, Nurses, New York Infirmary, New York City.

Minnie W. Goodrich, Resident Superintendent of Nurses, Post Graduate Hospital, New York City.

Diana C. Kimber, Acting Superintendent, New York City Training School for Nurses, New York City.

Anna C. Maxwell, Superintendent Training School for Nurses, the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

M. I. Merritt, Superintendent Brooklyn Hospital, Training School for Nurses, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Lily W. Quintard, Superintendent of Training School for Nurses, St. Luke's Hospital, New York City.

Irene H. Sutcliffe, Directress of Nurses, New York Hospital, New York City.

Ida Sutcliffe, Superintendent Training School for Nurses, Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Frances A. Stone, Superintendent of Nurses, Women's Hospital in the State of New York, New York City.

Alice J. Twitchell, Principal Training School and Superintendent, Smith Infirmary, New Brighton, S.I.

Ella G. Vance, Directress of Nurses, Metropolitan Hospital, New York City.

A. C. Walters, Supervising Nurse, New York Cancer Hospital, New York City.

Sarah G. Whitney, Superintendent Training School for Nurses, Roosevelt Hospital, New York City.

We endorse the foregoing resolution with pleasure, and consider that the views expressed are in the interest of the profession of trained nursing.

JOHN P. FAURE,
ROBERT W. DE FOREST,
CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD,
EVERETT P. WHEELER,
JOHN HARSEN RHOADES."

[We have great pleasure in publishing this protest, as we are in entire sympathy with the opinions of the signatories. In the States and Canada the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, in combination with the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, are earnestly co-operating and considering the best methods of organization and progress for the nursing profession. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the basis of the organization of these two National Societies of Nurses; and the distressing lack of self-respecting co-operation amongst nurses, and the isolated position of each training school in England, contrast sadly with the sympathetic attitude assumed by American and Canadian matrons towards graduate nurses of every school.—ED.]

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