

Nursing Politics.

THE new code of Bye-Laws for the Royal British Nurses' Association, drafted by the Hon. Officers, have been sent in to the Privy Council, and five separate Petitions have also been lodged at the Privy Council Office, protesting against them. Nothing now remains to be done but to await the decision of the Lords of the Privy Council, as to whether they intend to sanction the Bye-Laws in their present form, or whether they will hear Counsel for and against them.

WHATEVER the decision of the Privy Council may be, those members who have conscientiously protested against them, have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done their public duty, and that they have had the courage to oppose a constitution which they consider wrong and unjust; and, after all, self-respect and a clear conscience are the salt of life.

LETTERS reach us asking what course is to be taken if the new Bye-Laws are sanctioned, and the nurse members are deprived of all power in their own Association; and making suggestions for a new organization to obtain a standard of efficiency and Registration by Act of Parliament—an organization in which self-respecting women may quietly work for reform in their own profession free from obstruction and intimidation.

WE may at once state that we are giving both time and thought to the consideration of the subject, and that the lines for future work and co-operation seem quite clear. The great factor for success in this world is to know what you want and to work for it.

DON'T expect to gain great aims or to accomplish great reforms in a few months, or even years, when you start out inspired by a worthy ambition to accomplish a worthy end. Be prepared to give a lifetime to attain it, and then don't be disappointed if it remains for a future generation to see the result of your work. There is nothing wasted in Nature, and every effort to effect what is right and just adds its quota to the ultimate regeneration of this little world—a wee speck of matter in the infinite conception of the universe when all is said and done.

AN interesting correspondence in the *Trained Nurse* appears this month in relation to the aims of the two societies started for the organization of the Nursing Profession in the States. Miss L. L. Dock takes up her able pen in defence of the Associated Alumnae or National Society, and Miss Olivia A. Gregstrom hotly champions the "Graduated Nurses' Protection Association of the State of New York."

WE learn from Miss Dock with whose wide grasp of the whole question of nursing organization we are in entire sympathy:—

"That it is not strictly correct to speak of the President of the Associated Alumnae, Mrs. Hampton Robb, as a 'British subject,' as she is by marriage an American citizen. Her term of residence in the States has been as long, or longer than that required for naturalization, and her entire work as a nurse has been done in the interests of American schools and American Nurses. Her training was taken in this country. She was, it is true, born in Canada, but one would hardly like to agree that Canadians, who form so large and important a part of our nursing profession, should be excluded from positions as officers of voluntary associations."

THE fact is that the Associated Alumnae have defined a definite basis of organization, only graduated members of two years' standing from efficient training schools being eligible for admission. This of course excludes many nurses whose experience may be good, but who do not hold definite qualifications; and it is the champions of these nurses who have started another society, whose regulations for admission include them.

THE Associated Alumnae wisely say—Our standard is by no means prohibitive, and the committees of those hospitals who still deny to their nurses a well-defined curriculum of training, and definite term of two years' training, cannot expect the efficient graduates from the more progressive schools to remain classed in their profession, with the pupils of schools, whose curriculum is inefficient, and who utilize their probationary nurses, in private practice, to make money for the institutions, which fail to qualify them for their work, in the estimation of the leaders of nursing thought and education in the States.

MISS Dock speaks of the action of two delegates from the New Haven Hospital, and the Orange Memorial Hospital neither of which institutions conforms to the desired standard, and we find, in the conduct of these delegates, great hopes for the future.

"The two delegates went to their alumnae, and it was decided in each case (and, I believe, quite independently of each other) that the governing boards of the two schools should be petitioned either to extend the courses, or to do away with private duty. Formal letters were sent by the two associations, setting forth the points at issue and making their request with admirable temper and dignity. It was a fine and courageous thing for them to do, and full of promise for the future. College and university graduates all take an active interest and make themselves felt in the standards and policies of alma mater, but so far it has been a thing unheard of for graduate nurses to so express themselves.

"In neither case could the boards see their way to making changes at present, and the alumnae were

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)