

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION

which was founded in 1887, as the British Nurses' Association, by nurses for the benefit of nurses. Its objects were:—

(1) To unite all qualified British nurses in membership of a recognized profession.

(2) To provide for their Registration on terms satisfactory to Physicians and Surgeons as evidence of their having received systematic training.

(3) To associate them for their mutual help and protection, and for the advancement in every way of their professional work.

Membership was open to medical men and to trained nurses of three years' standing.

The Association was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1893. From this time onwards, owing to the ungenerous attitude assumed by a section of the medical members, the entire control has drifted into the hands of a small bureaucracy of hon. officials. The principle of State Registration, which it was founded to obtain has been publicly voted against by its Medical Secretary, and the Association is now actively opposed to professional progress and self-government for its nurse members, and is chiefly used as a philanthropic agency. When the majority of the nurse members of this Society are alive to their professional interests, no doubt they will make some use of their Royal Charter.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland is an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses, formed on lines analogous to those of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools. Membership is open to women who are, or have been, Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions who are Trained Nurses. Its objects are:—

1. To enable Members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession.

2. To bring about a uniform system of education, examination, certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals.

3. To hold Conferences to discuss subjects of professional and also of general interest.

THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S NURSES.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses is an Association of certified nurses who have passed through the training school of the hospital. The qualification for membership is the certificate of the hospital. St. Bartholomew's is notable as being the first nurse training school in the United Kingdom to affiliate its members for professional and social purposes upon the same principles upon which the Alumnae Associations are already

founded in the United States and Canada. Its objects are:—

(a) By union to encourage the members to maintain a high standard of work and conduct.

(b) For mutual help and pleasure.

(c) To promote the establishment of a fund for the relief of former nurses of the Hospital who are in distressed circumstances and need temporary or permanent help.

THE LEAGUE OF ST. JOHN'S HOUSE NURSES.

Within the last few months a League of the Nurses of St. John's House has also been formed. The objects of the League are:—

(a) By union to elevate and strengthen our Profession by endeavouring to maintain a high standard of work and conduct.

(b) To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for British Nurses.

(c) To promote the usefulness and honour, the financial and other interests, of the Nursing Profession.

(d) For mutual help, sympathy, and pleasure.

The qualification for membership is a certificate of three years' training, after examination, in a general hospital of not less than fifty beds.

THE NURSING SECTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE MIDWIVES' INSTITUTE.

A Nursing Sectional Committee, composed of trained nurses and others, has been formed in connection with the Midwives' Institute, to consider questions that concern nurses, as apart from Midwives.

THE DUBLIN NURSES' CLUB.

A Nurses' Club for professional and social purposes was most hopefully inaugurated in Dublin last year, and already numbers nearly 500 members. The members have much appreciated both the professional lectures and the social gatherings they have enjoyed through its medium, and their hope is that through it they may have an opportunity of elevating and ennobling, by every means in their power, the useful and honourable profession to which they belong.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CERTIFICATED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Constitution of a National League of Certificated Nurses has also been defined by the Matrons' Council, which is analogous to that of the National Associated Alumnae in the United States. The League has reserved to itself the right to supersede the word certificated by that of registered when nurses are thus distinguished by Act of Parliament.

CONSTITUTION.

Article I.—Name.—The name of the Association shall be "The National League of Certificated Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland."

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