

are supposed to be recruited from members of the Royal British Nurses' Association—is founded on principle; dangerous alike to personal liberty and efficiency. Here the nurses are merely the servants of the committee, and have absolutely no representation on the Board of Management at all. The Committee is composed of some twenty-five medical men, the majority of whom control the R.B.N.A., and a sprinkling of Matrons. The chief salaried officer is not a trained nurse, and under this medical committee enjoys almost absolute power, so that we have the usual result of male management of professional women, the submerging of their professional status and a total lack of professional responsibility upon the part of nurses who work under these demoralising conditions. We learn that much work filters out through this office to specialists—that is, to women who are not even eligible to become members of the R.B.N.A., and who in our opinion are not trained nurses. But such a basis of organisation as that upon which the Chartered Nurses' Society is founded affords a loophole for every economic abuse. Nurses who have no more self-respect than to take service under it are to blame, and must grin and bear it, or resign, when they disapprove of the conduct of business. They have no appeal.

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses consists of nurses admitted to the Society, contributors to its funds, and persons interested in it. The affairs of the Co-operation are managed by an Executive Committee of eighteen persons—four medical practitioners, ten lay persons, and four nurses. So far so good. But then we come to clause 10 of the Constitution, and find that the qualifications of every nurse who applies for membership are investigated by a Sub-Committee composed of four medical men. This Committee recommends, the Executive admits to membership. Here is a flaw in organisation. This Committee of Selection should be representative of the nursing profession and the public. Otherwise the Constitution appears fair. The nurses are members of the Co-operation; they have representation on the Committee, and the financial management is sound.

Just at present there is a crisis in the affairs of the Society. The Executive have unwisely attempted to thrust a new Constitution through a general meeting without having sent it for consideration to each nurse member. There was much in the proposed regulations which curtailed the liberties of the nurses. This Constitution has been referred back for further consideration. Let us hope that those who drafted it will not attempt to make it law. Any way, the nurses must be up and doing to prevent any regulations being forced upon them which infringe in the slightest degree the privileges which they now enjoy. The nurses are the Co-operation at Glasgow; let them see to it that they maintain for themselves and their successors a sound economic condition.

A New Lady of Grace.

The King has sanctioned the appointment of Mrs. Mary Morgan as Lady of Grace to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

Nursing Echoes.

* * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



This issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING bears the greetings of the nursing profession in the Old Country to British Nurses wherever they may be, whether in those parts of the globe where the map is coloured red, or in lands where the flags of other countries are flying. To each and all we extend a cordial Christmas greeting, and hope that year by year this

Journal may increasingly strengthen the bond of union between members of our profession who, far apart, are yet one in the object of their lives, the service of the sick.

To those Unions of Nurses which by organising the nursing profession in British Colonies, and improving its educational curriculum, are working for the welfare of the sick, we offer our congratulations and hearty good wishes for their continued prosperity. To the Registered Nurses of New Zealand and Cape Colony we may be permitted to hope continued progress, on the basis of professional enfranchisement. To the nurses of all countries in the Old World we must express our good wishes for their professional well-being, and last, but not least, to our colleagues in the Western Hemisphere, whose work for the general good commands our admiration, and to many of whom we personally accord esteem, respect, and affection, we take this opportunity of conveying the good wishes of the season, as many pleasant memories bridge the distance that divides us, and we clasp hands across the sea.

Those ladies now in England who have been awarded the Royal Red Cross, and may not have received the decoration of the Order, should communicate their addresses immediately to the Under-Secretary of State for War.

It is announced from the War Office that Sisters of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, who have served with an Army in the field, or who have been employed on Army service at home, shall, if selected for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, be allowed to count such service towards pension.

We learn that there is very great dissatisfaction amongst some of the Army Sisters at the disbanding of the old Service and the organisation of the

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