

## Workhouse Infirmiry Nursing Association.

We have pleasure in publishing the text of the Memorial which has been drawn up by the Workhouse Infirmiry Nursing Association for presentation to the President of the Local Government Board in protest to the suggestion of the creation of a new grade of nurse under the title of "qualified nurse." As will be seen from the signatures, there has never been such a universal expression of opinion in the nursing world in this country before. We regret we have not space to publish this week a Supplementary Memorial drawn up by the Executive Committee of the same Association. It will appear in our next issue.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE WALTER LONG, M.P.,  
*President of the Local Government Board.*

Sir,—We respectfully beg to lay before you some observations regarding the recommendations made in the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by you to inquire into the nursing of the sick poor in workhouses.

It is proposed to create a new grade of nurse under the title of "qualified nurse." To this recommendation we take objection for the following reasons:—

An attempt to train Probationers in such workhouses as are defined in the Report as Minor Training-Schools—institutions which apparently need not contain more than a maximum of between 60 and 100 sick-beds—cannot fail to be detrimental to the Poor Law Nursing Service, and will inevitably tend to lower the standard of the nursing profession as a whole.

The striking disadvantages of the Minor Training-Schools would be:—

(a) The absence in small workhouses of a sufficiently varied number of cases by which it is possible for a nurse to gain proper experience.

(b) The absence of modern treatment and appliances essential to any system of training, and which are usually to be found in small hospitals.

(c) The obvious duty of establishing in small workhouses the proper *tone* in regard to patients that ought to be acquired by a nurse at the beginning of her career; and that can only be gained in an institution primarily devoted to the care and cure of the sick.

(d) The fact that at the conclusion of one year a Probationer holding a certificate from a minor training-school would be launched on the nursing world as a "qualified nurse," perfectly free to leave Poor Law work and to take service in connection with small private and district nursing homes, the managers of which may be willing to accept the certificate she holds as qualifying her to undertake, without supervision, responsible nursing duties. By this means a serious danger to the public would be created.

We beg to express our strong opinion that it will be a retrograde step if the Local Government Board consents to sanction the recognition [as "qualified nurses" of women who have not received a proper training in the elements of nursing as it is generally understood.—We beg to remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

[Signed by]

H.R.H. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein,  
Patron of the Workhouse Infirmiry Nursing Association, and the following ladies and gentlemen:

### INFIRMARY MATRONS.

Miss J. E. Hopper, Matron of Bethnal Green Infirmiry; Miss A. C. Gibson, Matron of Birmingham Infirmiry; Miss Ellen E. Moriarty, Matron of Brentford Union Infirmiry; Miss Louisa Richford, Assistant Matron of Brentford Union Infirmiry; Miss Isabel H. Myles, Matron of Brighton Workhouse Infirmiry; Miss M. Stuart, Lady Superintendent, Brownlow Hill Workhouse Hospital, Liverpool; Miss Charlotte M. Williams, Superintendent of Nurses, Cardiff Union Hospital; Miss E. M. Smith, Matron of Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon; Miss E. C. Barton, Matron of Chelsea Workhouse Infirmiry; Miss M. Rawson, Matron of Chorlton Union Hospital, Manchester; Miss Elizabeth Stewart, Matron of City of London Infirmiry; Miss M. E. Shipley, Matron of Fulham Infirmiry; Miss H. E. A. Dixon, Matron of Greenwich Union Infirmiry; Miss Louisa Griffiths, Matron of Hackney Union Infirmiry; Miss Katherine Platt, Superintendent of Nursing, Hampstead Workhouse Infirmiry; Miss J. A. Smith, Matron Kingston-on-Thames Infirmiry; Miss Mary Girdlestone, Matron of Crumpsall Workhouse Infirmiry, Manchester; Miss E. R. Graham, Matron of Mile End Infirmiry; Miss J. E. Styring, Matron of Paddington Infirmiry; Miss S. A. Hannaford, Matron of Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum; Miss M. M. Hampson, Matron of St. George's Union Infirmiry (Fulham); Miss F. E. Marquardt, Matron of St. Giles' Infirmiry, Camberwell; Miss I. Malim, Matron of St. Mary Abbott's (Kensington) Infirmiry; Miss H. E. Little, Matron of St. Mary's (Islington) Infirmiry; Miss Grace Ramsden, Matron of St. Marylebone Infirmiry; Miss A. W. Orchard, Matron of St. Olave's Union Infirmiry; Miss E. J. Moir, Matron of St. Pancras Infirmiry; Miss Annie Sibley, Matron and Superintendent of Nurses, Salford Union Infirmiry, Manchester; Miss Joan Inglis, Matron of Shoreditch Infirmiry; Miss E. Noëmie Armit, Matron of Southwark Union Infirmiry, East Dulwich; Miss Maria Anstey, Matron of Wandsworth and Clapham Union Infirmiry; Miss E. Mowat, Matron of Whitechapel Infirmiry; Miss Helena Gooding, Matron of Woolwich Union Infirmiry.

### HOSPITAL MATRONS.

Miss M. E. Jones, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham; Miss C. Elkington, Matron of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Matron of Chelsea Hospital for Women, and Lady Superintendent-elect for Charing Cross Hospital; Mrs. Ellen Price, Lady Superintendent Hospital for Consumption, Brompton; Miss D. M. Oldham, Matron of Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park; Miss S. A. Swift, Matron of Guy's Hospital; Miss Katherine H. Monk, Matron of King's College Hospital; Miss Annie Barling, Matron, the Infirmiry and Children's Hospital, Kidderminster

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)