

the nurses of rightful powers of control. Thus out of *thirty* members of the proposed Central Board, which is to govern the nursing profession, only *six* are elected by the registered nurses themselves, and these under restrictive regulations. The remaining twenty-four are nine medical practitioners, nominated by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and other academic bodies, three lay persons, three nurses, nominated by the Directors-General of the Army and Navy Nursing Services conjointly, the R.B.N.A., and the Queen's Jubilee Institute, and nine Matrons elected by the lay Committees of hospitals, thus for the first time placing certificated nurses who are not in their employment, as well as pupil nurses under the control of the training-schools, while the Matrons of British hospitals are not accorded any representation whatever by their peers.

Under the proposed Bill the conditions of nursing labour would be absolutely dictated by a combined oligarchy of medical and lay employers of nursing labour, who at the same time are not concerned or responsible for their economic welfare. Men of all classes refuse to work under such unfair conditions, indeed the Bill is a most unjust and cruel one, and we have no hesitation in saying that nurses who help to carry such a measure will incur the just condemnation of their colleagues of generations to come, for they will vote away, not only their own liberties, but those of the nurses who succeed them. It is certain that if the proposed Bill of the Royal British Nurses' Association for the State Registration of Nurses becomes law, the nurses of the future will have neither liberty of conscience, speech, or action.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

This issue of the Journal, the first of the new year, carries our cordial greetings to our readers at home and abroad. We hope it will be a year of much happiness to one and all. It certainly will be for British nurses a year of the utmost importance, and we ask them to draw the attention of other nurses and of the public to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, so that the principles for which it is working may be even more widely disseminated than at present.

To the large number of nurses who have written to us expressing their good wishes, and their appreciation of this Journal, we tender our hearty thanks.

Annotations.

THE CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

The sad death of two children, little more than babies, in Peabody Buildings, at Westminster, from suffocation, caused by their playing with fire while their parents were at work, draws attention to the urgent need for the multiplication of well-managed crèches in which the children of the working classes can receive adequate attention. It is within our knowledge that, at present, married women who desire to add to the family income, or, perhaps, to support the family when the bread-winner is out of work, frequently find the greatest difficulty in making adequate arrangements for the care of their children. Warmth, fresh air, proper feeding, protection from the dangers of fire are essential, and can be best supplied by crèches, designed especially for the reception of babies and young children. At the head of each crèche should be a trained nurse, with special experience in the care of children, and with a knowledge of food values, sanitation, and hygiene.

It is impossible to estimate the effect which systematic care and proper feeding of the children of the poor during the first few years of life would have on the national physique, as well as upon the rate of mortality. Such a movement would be pregnant for good, whether regarded from the standpoint of the happiness of small children, or of the improvement of their health, which is a national asset, or as affording, under expert teachers, that training-ground for pupils in the proper care of infants which is at present well-nigh one of the lost arts, so that young women who light-heartedly undertake the duties of maternity with no conception of what is entailed, frequently acquire to some extent the necessary knowledge at the expense of detriment to the health and sometimes even at the cost of the life of their first-born. There is nothing more appalling than the crass ignorance of the large majority of mothers on matters of fundamental importance to themselves and their offspring.

THE EDUCATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

The expense incurred by hospitals, which are maintained by the charitable for the care of the sick poor, in the support of medical education is a subject to which we have frequently drawn attention. It is urged, with some force, that the adequate care of the sick is inseparable from efficient medical education, and that therefore

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)