

conformity, or for any loss or expense happening to the Society through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Council, for or on behalf of the Society, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in and upon which any of the moneys of the Society shall be invested, or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency, or tortious act of any person with whom any moneys, securities, or effects shall be deposited, or for any loss or damage occasioned by any error of judgment or oversight on his part, or for any other loss, damage, or misfortune whatever, which shall happen in the execution of the duties of his office, or in relation thereto, unless the same happen through his own dishonesty.

A SUMMARY.

The incorporation of the Society is sought for by seven gentlemen in the City of London. It is, therefore, needless to say that, however eminent in financial matters, they must be more or less ignorant concerning medical and nursing questions. Yet the objects for which they seek incorporation involve many points of the greatest technical difficulty. They seek, for example, to promote the higher education and training of nurses, and uniformity in their education. They seem to consider that they can do this by "recognising approved nursing schools" and granting certificates of proficiency in nursing to persons who have passed prescribed examinations, and, further, certificates in special branches of nursing. They evidently consider themselves competent "to institute and to conduct examinations for such purposes," and even "to prescribe courses of study" which nurses shall undergo. Still more serious is their avowed intention to make and maintain a Register of certificated nurses, and to remove from such Register "the name of any person as the Society may in its discretion think proper." Incidentally, they propose to take legal proceedings against nurses pretending to be certificated by the Society, to maintain and provide lecture halls and rooms and courses of lectures for nurses; and to publish a newspaper or magazine. It will be obvious to all professional people that any laxity or error in carrying out this programme would mean sending out to the public, as certificated nurses, persons who were not competent for the very responsible duties nurses have to fulfil. As the scheme, on the face of it, emanates from unprofessional persons, it is almost certain that such laxity and mistakes would take place, and the dangers of the scheme to the public cannot therefore be exaggerated. So far as the medical profession is concerned, the scheme implies that participation in the education and control of nurses is to be taken out of the hands of the former and placed absolutely in those of laymen, a result which we cannot believe the medical profession in this country will for a moment sanction. So far as the nursing profession

is concerned, the objects of this Society, if carried out, would place any nurse whose name was on the Register entirely at the mercy of the Society. Indeed, it is definitely provided that any three members of the Council could take a nurse's name off the Register for any reason whatsoever—or for the matter of that, without any reason whatever. But that is not all by any means. Apparently, such a nurse would have no redress of any kind; so that this provision simply means that the Society proposes to render the nurses who are foolish enough to trust it absolutely defenceless and voiceless from a professional point of view. So far as the Nurse-Training Schools are concerned, it is actually suggested that only certain schools should be "recognised," which, of course, means that those schools which are not recognised are to be considered outside the pale, and that the nurses they train or employ are not to be regarded as trained nurses at all. The irony of the scheme is that the Schools which are graciously recognised by this Society would be absolutely under the heel of the twelve persons who form the Council of the Society. It is impossible to believe that the great hospitals of this country will consent to be placed in such a humiliating position of subserviency to a self-appointed body such as this Council is. And it is certain that any nurse who placed herself under the control of this Council would only have herself to thank for any professional detriment she might suffer in consequence.

Coming to the details of the scheme, the Members are to be, first, the seven signatories, and next the members of the Council, of the Consultative Board, and of the Examination Board. But it is noteworthy that *the very day* anyone ceases to belong to one of these three bodies, he thereby ceases to be a Member of the Society.

The whole power of the Society is practically vested in the hands of the Council, which is to consist of *not less than nine, nor more than twelve, members of the Society*. The Council has power to appoint its own members, and even nominates to the annual meeting the persons to be elected by the Society on the Council. *At any meeting, either of the Council or of the whole Society, three members form a quorum*. So that practically a little clique of three can carry out all the great powers and responsibilities which the Society desires to undertake. The Consultative Board is to be appointed by the Council; the Examination Board, *which is not to exceed twelve in number*, is also to be appointed by the Council. In other words, three members of the Council could appoint the whole Society. *It is noteworthy that no member of the Society pays any annual or other subscription*. There is no statement made as to where the funds of the Society are to come from, except that nurses who enter for any of the Society's examinations are to pay such fees

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