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Editorial.

THE NURSING UKASE.

The Memorandum of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, which has been secretly drawn up and presented to the Board of Trade, with a Petition for Incorporation, but which has now been laid before the nursing profession in the United Kingdom through this journal, has simply electrified the nursing world.

With commendable promptness, the most important nursing associations in the three kingdoms met within the week, and have drawn up petitions giving cogent reasons for their opposition to the Constitution of this secret Society for presentation to the Board of Trade. They have also determined to hold a public meeting to protest against the unjust and tyrannical provisions embodied in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the above Society. This meeting, convened by the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and which has the sympathy of nurses in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, as well as in England, will be held in the large hall at 20, Hanover Square, London, W., on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 4 p.m. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Louisa Stevenson, President of the State Registration Society, the chair will be taken by the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Vice-President.

Resolutions protesting against the attempt of seven financiers in the City of London to obtain authority to organise the professional education of trained nurses, to exercise disciplinary powers, and to control their work; against the exclusion of trained nurses from direct representation on the Council of the Society; and also in support of the Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses, to be introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson; and affirming that government of the nursing profession, by a representative Nursing Council em-

powered by Act of Parliament to supervise nursing education and maintain common rules of discipline, is the only effective method of dealing with existent evils, will be submitted to the meeting by speakers who thoroughly understand the Nursing Question from the educational, economic, and disciplinary standpoints. We have no doubt that the same spirit which animated the meetings of nursing societies held in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin last week will be exhibited in force by those Matrons and nurses who intend to be present.

The fact that this despotic Constitution has been drawn up by men who, by the provisions embodied, show themselves out of touch with, and contemptuously oblivious of, the principles which animate those trained nurses, who for years have been pleading and fighting for a just measure of professional enfranchisement by Act of Parliament, proves the wisdom of nurses in associating themselves together in national co-operations to study and acquaint themselves with every detail in connection with their duty and work. These Associations, animated by the highest motives in relation to the benefit of the sick and of the nursing profession, can now unite and place before the Board of Trade cogent and conclusive reasons why this Nursing Ukase should become null and void, by that Board's refusal to grant absolute and intolerable powers to a few financiers and employers of nurses; which powers, without exaggeration, would place the trained nurses of the United Kingdom, from a professional and industrial standpoint, in a position as degrading as that of the Russian moujik.

In our opinion, it is nothing short of an outrage that these financiers, with medical superintendents of hospitals and others, should, in their blind ignorance of the spirit animating trained nurses, not only in this country but all over the world, dare to draw up a Constitution for their enslavement, and secretly present it to the Board of Trade, those responsible for the drafting of this document, well knowing that.

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