

Recommendations of the Central Hospital Council for London.

With a view of meeting the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, and also to enable the employer of a nurse, whether doctor or layman, to satisfy himself as to her training, and to obviate the difficulty alleged to exist of a nurse being unable, owing to a change of officials, or from other causes, to obtain a record of her training.

We recommend that:—

1. An Official Directory of Nurses should be instituted.
2. This Directory could be kept by an Official Registrar, who would either act on his own authority or be under a Department of State.
3. Every nurse who has been trained at a Training School for Nurses, not carried on for private gain, should be entitled to have the following particulars entered in the Directory:—
Name.
Places, dates and periods of training.
Subsequent hospital and other appointments held.
4. Every such entry should also state specifically whether or not the nurse has gained the certificate of her training school and the date of such certificate.
5. The Registering Authority should have power to decide whether an Institution at which a nurse has been trained is a Training School not carried on for private gain.
Any Institution or nurse against whom the Authority shall decide, should have a right of appeal.
6. Nurses' names should be removed from the Directory who are dead, or who have given notice that they have ceased nursing, or who have for a defined period failed to respond to the official communications.
7. Nurses' names should be removed from the Directory who have been convicted of any criminal offence.
8. The fee for having a name entered in the Directory should not exceed £1 ls.
9. It should be made penal for a nurse falsely to represent that her name is on the Directory.

It should be conspicuously stated in the Directory that the fact that a nurse's name appears therein in no way guarantees anything more than that the entries of the nurse's training, and subsequent appointments, have been verified.

These proposals would leave each Training School to develop its teaching on the lines best suited to its special circumstances. No system of compulsory examination, with its attendant difficulties and evils, would be instituted. The real employer of a nurse, viz., the doctor would be able from the Directory, at once to estimate the value of her training for her special case, while the public could learn that a nurse's statements as to her training were accurate, and would know in most cases where to inquire for further information if desired.

H. A. HARBEN,
Chairman of the Council.

Progress of State Registration.

The various Sectional Committees of the National Union of Women Workers are arranging drawing-room meetings to place before women the work which they are doing. These meetings were inaugurated by the Legislation and Industrial Committees last Friday at 40, Pont Street, by the kind permission of Mrs. J. E. Ellis. Mrs. Creighton was in the chair, and in her opening remarks expressed the hope that by such means an ever wider circle of women would be brought to take an interest in the numerous questions which the Union considered from time to time. Miss Lidgett gave a most lucid *résumé* of the work of the Legislation Committee touching on the various questions and Bills which it had under consideration. Her remarks on the State Registration of Nurses Bill were eminently sane and proved that common sense, and not sentiment or prejudice, had guided the members of the Committee in forming an opinion in favour of the principle of Registration for Nurses.

Lady Laura Ridding expressed the opinion that Parliament was not likely to support a demand for an overwhelming preponderance of women on a Central Board, and upon being called upon to speak on this matter Mrs. Bedford Fenwick gave briefly the reasons which had compelled nurses to ask for organisation and legislation, and said that as all men's professions were self-governing the nurses thought it right to ask Parliament for the same authority, although they proposed in their Bill now before Parliament that the training schools and the medical profession should have representation on the Central Governing Body. In reply to the question why there was opposition to State Registration, Mrs. Fenwick said that those of progressive proclivities advocated, and those of conservative tendencies opposed it, that the workers were petitioning for it, and their hospital employers opposing it. In reply to a question as to why Matrons opposed it, a lady present said that they feared it would decrease their power, but Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that many Matrons were earnestly in favour of legal status for nurses, and also for a governing body directly elected by the registered nurses themselves, and that the only two organisations of Matrons, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain, and the Irish Matrons Council, were both strongly in favour of State Registration.

Mrs. J. R. Macdonald gave a most interesting address on the work of the Industrial Committee, more especially in connection with the Truck Acts.

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