

tered American nurses, in our midst, who have the right to add these letters to their names. Let us be thankful that Miss Keith Payne, from New Zealand, will prove that British nurses are not altogether negligible so far as legal status is concerned. For the rest, no law of any kind concerns our profession on the Statute Book of the United Kingdom. In the land of Florence Nightingale the professional nurse is *non est*.

### The Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Recommendations and Syllabus for an Examination and Diploma in Nursing, as suggested by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, have evidently been drawn up without the help of experienced and progressive Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools, and they are, therefore, naturally exceedingly defective. No standard of general education is demanded, and we have only to mention the fact that it does not appear to be considered necessary to have had any practical training in the special branches of nursing, in which the candidates for examination present themselves. We are not surprised to hear that Dr. Biernacki intends to have this point discussed at the Special Meeting on the 12th, so far as it relates to fever nursing.

In organising a curriculum for a Nursing Examination nothing can be more dangerous to nursing efficiency than that it should be of an absolutely theoretical nature. Practical nursing should be given a very prominent place in any such test. This R.B.N.A. syllabus is, as usual, an entirely man-made article.

In the *Nurses' Journal* the recommendations are put out at length. The fee to be charged is £2 2s.

The sad truth, however, is that the breach of faith with the founders of the Association, and the high-handed, intolerable treatment of every nurse who has had the courage to maintain her opinion in opposition to the small clique of medical men, who have governed the Association for the past fourteen years, have alienated the sympathy of all self-respecting nurses. So long as the same men who have privately intimidated—and publicly insulted—Matrons and nurse members in the meetings of their own Association, and in their official organ, continue in office, no woman of spirit will risk her professional reputation by placing it at their mercy.

We learned our lesson over the Barlow and Breay cases, and we have not forgotten it. To give Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Bezly Thorne, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, and their supporters power to *grant* a Diploma of Nursing to working women, and to *withdraw* it from them, would be to give them the power to ruin the professional career of a nurse. These men and the weak and servile women who support them have proved themselves, by their past conduct, unworthy of such responsibility. A State appointed authority, defined by Parliament and elected by themselves is what trained nurses are now demanding, and is the only Professional Control to which they can safely submit.

### The Matrons' Council for Canada.

It gives us the very greatest pleasure to announce that at a meeting of Matrons (or Lady Superintendents as they are usually called in Canada), held at Toronto, on March 30th, a "Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses" was inaugurated. Thirty-six active and eight associate members were enrolled, embracing Superintendents of nursing schools extending from Newfoundland and Halifax, N.S., on the East to Vancouver, B.C., on the West.

The officers were elected as follows:—

President: Miss Agnes Snively, Toronto.

First Vice-President: Miss N. G. E. Livingston, Montreal.

Second Vice-President: Miss A. Macfarlane, Vancouver.

Secretary: Miss L. Brent, Children's Hospital, Toronto.

Treasurer: Miss M. L. Meiklejohn, Ottawa.

A Council, Executive Committee, and Auditors were also elected.

PRELIMINARY ORGANISATION. THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

#### Name.

This organisation shall be known as the "Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses."

#### Object.

The object of this Association shall be to consider all questions relating to nursing education; to aid in all measures for public good by co-operation with other educational bodies, philanthropic and social; to promote by meetings, papers, discussions, cordial and professional relations and fellowship, and in all ways to develop and maintain the highest ideals in the nursing profession.

#### Members.

There shall be three classes of members:

1. Active.
2. Associate.
3. Honorary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)