

(f) Provide for the appointment of an Advisory Council to act as Assessors for the purpose of enabling the Registrar to decide questions arising under the Order, and the Order may contain all such other provisions whether similar to the above or not, which may be considered auxiliary to the objects of this Act, and expedient for carrying these objects into effect.

*Revocation or Amendment of Order.*

4. An Order made in pursuance of this Act may be revoked or amended by his Majesty in Council.

*Penalties.*

5. Any person who procures or attempts to procure the insertion in the Directory of any particulars by means of any false and fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or otherwise, or who falsely represents that his or her name is inserted in the Directory, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to such penalties as shall be prescribed by the Order or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding months.

*Payment of Expenses.*

The excess (if any) of expenditure under this Act over the receipts obtainable by fees shall, except so far as provision is made for the payment thereof by or under the Order, be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

*Order to be laid before Parliament.*

7. An Order under this Act shall be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament if Parliament be sitting when such Order is made, or if not, then within three weeks after the beginning of the next ensuing session of Parliament, and after such Order has lain forty days before Parliament then, unless within such forty days an Address has been presented by one or other of the said Houses such Order shall come into operation.

**THE INFIRMARY NURSE AND STATE REGISTRATION.**

The Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions, at their recent meeting held in London, decided to oppose the Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses because they feared that the Governing Body created under a Nurses' Registration Act might refuse to recognise Workhouse Infirmaries as Training Schools for Nurses. An excellent piece of work for the Poor Law Infirmaries Matrons' Association to undertake would be the education of Clerks to the Guardians, who are in a position to afford information to their Boards, on the question of State Registration, and its effect on Poor Law Infirmaries Training Schools. If a minimum standard were established by the State the result would unquestionably be to place the well trained infirmary nurse on a level with her hospital trained sister, whereas, at the present time, nurses trained in poor law infirmaries are often at quite an unjust disadvantage.

**The Status of M.A.B. Matrons.**

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Local Government Society to the President of the Local Government Board:—  
*To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President of the Local Government Board.*

SIR,—We beg to appeal to you for the strictest scrutiny of the proposal of the present Metropolitan Asylums' Board to change the position of the Matrons of the Hospitals and Asylums under the Board, by the proposed new Order. We ask for scrutiny as to the drawbacks, if any, to the present system; to the alleged advantages, if any, which might be expected from the proposal of the Managers, and to the changes, both direct and indirect, which this Draft Order, if sanctioned as it stands, would make in the duties and responsibilities as well as in the position of the Matron.

We desire to state that, in our opinion, the suggested change in the position of the Matron would render that position one for which the best qualified women would not apply, would tend to impair the discipline and the working efficiency of the nursing staff, with results injurious to the patients, and would deprive the Asylums Board of a wholesome restraint on arbitrary action.

We submit that there is no real analogy between the position of Matrons of Hospitals and Asylums under the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the position of Matrons of General Hospitals under Committees which are practically self-elective, and whose policy, whatever be its other characteristics, has that of continuity.

We understand that under the present system the Matrons have done excellent service, and we are of opinion that where a Matron ought to be dismissed, it will be possible to convince the Local Government Board of the propriety of such dismissal.

We, therefore, beg leave to hope that the Local Government Board will not abrogate its power, but will refuse its sanction to that alteration of the Local Government Board Orders which would reduce the status of the Matrons of the Hospitals and Asylums under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

JANE STRACHEY, President.

MARY WILLIAMS, Chairman of Committee,

ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE, Hon. Secretary, of

the Women's Local Government

Trained Nurses are deeply indebted to the Women's Local Government Society for this able advocacy of their cause.

We regret to note that in recent issues of the *British Medical Journal* and the *Lancet* they express themselves in favour of the suggestion to "degrade" the Matrons of the Hospitals and Asylums working under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Because the assistant medical officers do not rank as

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)