

can claim to be registered who is not less than 21 years of age, of good character, and who holds a three years' certificate from a general hospital approved by the Council or a *Poor Law institution recommended by the Local Government Board*, or who can produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council, and in addition to this training has been working as a *bonâ-fide* nurse for at least three years, and is of good character.

Besides this Register of trained nurses, the Council is to keep a "supplementary register of asylum trained nurses" holding certain approved certificates, such as that given by the Medico-Psychological Association.

From all this you will gather how important is the change looming in the near future, instead of isolated units each one a law unto herself, nurses will become members of an important profession, having a recognised code of "professional conduct," and being amenable to the discipline of the General Council; instead of each training school "educating" (!) its nurses in the manner most convenient to its Governors and staff, the curriculum laid down by the General Council will have to be followed, and provision must be made in each institution for teaching probationers the minimum amount of technical knowledge necessary for passing the public examination held under the auspices of the Council.

Now, having seen how great are the powers with which the Council is to be invested, you will readily understand how important is its composition and manner of election, to us who, as nurses, will be under its jurisdiction, for, when once the Bill is passed, it will be too late to attempt to make our wishes known or to modify its conditions. Our first and chief care must, therefore, be to secure an adequate proportion of direct representation of the nurses themselves on their Governing Body.

In the Bill as at present amended the General Council is to consist of 15 persons, *i.e.*, 3 appointed by the Privy Council (one, at least, being a woman), 1 registered practitioner appointed by the Local Government Board, 1 registered medical practitioner appointed by the General Medical Council, 3 registered medical practitioners appointed by the British Medical Association, 1 registered medical practitioner appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association, 6 registered nurses elected by the nurses themselves, total 15. Of the last six, 4 are to be elected by the registered nurses of England and Wales, 1 by the registered nurses resident in Scotland, and 1 by the asylum trained nurses on the Supplementary Register.

The Bill as at present drafted does not in-

clude Ireland in its scope, but in the amendments to be proposed in the House of Lords, when the Bill is again considered, Ireland would come under the Act, and the Council would be increased to 16 members, the number of directly elected representatives of the nurses being increased to seven by the addition of a nurse whose registered address is in Ireland, Scotland being already provided for in this way.

I may put the Constitution of the Council shortly before you thus:—

6 nurses, one of whom is to be an asylum matron.

6 medical practitioners.

3 persons (one a woman, and all most probably lay persons), appointed by the Privy Council.

I am sure you will agree with me that the proportion of nurses to be elected upon their own Governing Body does not err on the side of generosity, and that it is, therefore, imperative that those elected should be able to attend all the business meetings of the Council, and indeed that they should undertake to do so before being nominated for election.

I must not to-night write further, but next week I shall hope to continue my remarks and explanation of the Bill.

Yours very truly,

HELEN TODD, *Matron*.

Wandsworth Union Infirmary.

Medical Registration in India.

A public meeting of the medical practitioners in Calcutta and its neighbourhood was held at the hall of the Calcutta University Institute on July 6th, to consider means for the prevention of the growth of bogus medical institutions, and other questions in connection with certain abuses which have come into existence in Calcutta. The chair was taken by Dr. Kailash Chandra Bose, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E., and after discussion the following resolution was adopted by a majority:

"That the time has come for considering the question of preventing the granting of degrees which are the properties of the Indian Universities by a Medical Registration Act or otherwise, and also to take steps to safeguard the interests of persons practising the system recognised by the Indian universities."

A Committee was appointed to report as soon as possible to another meeting of the profession, and a subscription list was opened to meet the necessary expenses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)