

tion—the former not exceeding two guineas, the latter not to exceed three guineas.

Nurses eligible for the Register when first compiled will only be called upon to pay the two guinea fee, and, after the first year, a further sum of half-a-crown annually is to be paid by each Registered Nurse for re-registration.

The safeguard, both to the public and the profession, as to the genuineness of the entries in the Register, lies in two penal clauses, which enact that any person who fraudulently obtains a certificate under the Act, or who makes any false declaration, or who causes any falsification in any matters relating to the Register to be made, "shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding twelve months."

This Bill, which we may aptly call the Nurses' Charter, carefully provides against injustice on the part of the Council when deciding that any nurse has forfeited her right to appear on the Register.

No nurse may have her name removed or suspended from the Register until she has had "an opportunity of giving an explanation" (of her supposed misconduct) "in writing or in person," and it is especially laid down that the statement of the case against her shall first be sent her by registered post, in order to ensure that she receives it.

If after inquiry the Council think fit to remove her name, she has the further safeguard of a right of appeal.

There is just one other clause in the Bill (an amendment proposed by the Government) to which I must draw your attention—viz., the one which gives special power to the Council to form, within four years from the commencement of the Act, if they think fit, "a register of nurses to be called associate nurses, having a lower standard of training than that required in the case of Registered Nurses." This class of nurse is to be debarred from representing herself as a Registered Nurse and also from voting at any election of one of the six registered Nurse Representatives.

This clause is one likely to be very hotly debated, and one upon which you ought to know your own mind. It will doubtless be strongly supported by the lay committees of various cottage and district organisations and by persons employing women as nurses with inferior qualifications. The formation of such a class of inferior members of a profession is a somewhat novel idea, and, in my opinion, would be a grave mistake; a barrister, a doctor, a solicitor, is either a qualified member of his profession or must remain outside its

ranks. There is no hardship in refusing to admit the partially trained nurse to the Register, because the Act in no way seeks to debar her from waiting on the sick, but only from representing herself as a fully trained nurse, and so entitled to Registration when she does not hold the necessary qualification.

At the risk of being tedious, then, I wish to impress upon you once more that the Act only legislates for the trained and qualified nurse, and in no way interferes with the cottage and partially trained district nurse, the workhouse assistant nurse, the monthly nurse and the kindly neighbour who "looks in" on the sick friend, so long as they are content with their true colours and do not attempt to sail under the flag of the Registered Nurse.

I would, in conclusion, remind you that a copy of the Bill can be obtained by post for 2d. from Messrs. Wyman and Son, Fetter Lane, E.C., and you will find it most interesting and well worth perusal.

Yours sincerely,

HELEN TODD, *Matron*.

Wandsworth Union Infirmary.

The Registration Question in Ireland.

The prompt and effective Protest raised by the Irish Nurses' Association against the exclusion of Ireland from the scope of the Nurses' Registration Bill is by no means confined to the Association. From all parts of the country resolutions in strong sympathy with the Protest are being received by the Association, indeed both public and professional opinion overwhelmingly demand the extension of the Bill to Ireland.

The following letter from Lord Amthill, G.C.I.E., addressed to the Secretary, was read at the bi-monthly meeting of the Meath Hospital, Dublin.

Dear Sir,—I received your letter of the 13th inst., in which you communicate to me a resolution adopted by the Joint Committee of the Meath Hospital. I strongly agree with the opinion of your Committee that Irish trained nurses should fully share in the advantages of registration if the Bill now before Parliament should pass into law, and I trust that you will use your influence to persuade the Irish Government that they were mistaken in proposing the exclusion of Ireland.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) AMPHILL.

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