

tion on the Council, and it is provided that a past or present Matron of a Poor Law Infirmary must also have a seat upon the First Council.

No class of nurse stands to benefit more directly by the institution of a definite curriculum of training, and the one portal system of examination, than the nurses in the Poor Law Service, and for this reason no Matrons have given more loyal support to the organisation of nursing by Act of Parliament than those at the head of the Poor Law Nursing Schools, and the Fever Hospitals under the authority of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. When our Bill becomes law, as it very soon will, the profession generally will owe a deep debt of gratitude to these Matrons who have given so much time, thought, and financial support to the registration movement—a movement for better educational facilities and economic conditions for trained nurses.

As soon as it became known that the Local Government Board was blocking the Nurses' Registration Bill, an Emergency Meeting of the Matrons of the Metropolitan Poor Law Infirmarys and Fever Hospitals was held in London, and the following Resolution was passed, widely signed by Matrons within 24 hours, and forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board, with a covering letter signed by Miss E. C. Barton, Hon. Secretary of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, and Miss L. A. Morgan, Nurse Hon. Secretary of the Fever Nurses' Association:—

LETTER.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President of the Local Government Board.

SIR,—We beg respectfully to forward to you the enclosed Resolution, on behalf of Matrons working under the Local Government Board. We do so with confidence because we are aware of your sympathy with the sick poor, and your interest in the efficiency of the Nursing Service of the Department over which you preside, and we believe, therefore, that you will accede to our request to give your consideration to this question which so vitally affects every nurse and patient in Poor Law Infirmarys, and that on acquainting yourself with the facts you will withdraw your opposition to the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now before the House of Commons.

We beg to assure you that your decision to do so would be welcomed with gratitude by a very large majority of the nurses in the Poor Law Service.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

ELEANOR C. BARTON,
Hon. Secretary, Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association.

L. A. MORGAN,
Nurse Hon. Secretary, Fever Nurses' Association.

RESOLUTION.

“That this meeting of Matrons of Poor Law Infirmarys, and of Fever Hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, desires very respectfully to express the great regret which those Matrons feel that the President of the Local Government Board is opposing the progress of the Bill for the Registration of Nurses, and thereby delaying the improvements in the status and work of their nurses which the Matrons under the authority of the Local Government Board earnestly desire, and which they have worked for many years to secure. They beg to point out:—

“1. That the experience of other professions, and of other countries which have passed Nursing Bills, proves that the efficient education and discipline of the large number of women and men now engaged in nursing the sick in this country can only be effected by an Act of Parliament.

“2. That at present, there is great difficulty in persuading the best class of educated women to enter Poor Law Infirmarys for training as nurses in sufficient numbers, because of the invidious class distinction between the Certificates of great General Hospitals and those of Workhouse Infirmarys.

“3. That if all nurses were subject to the same State Examination, and awarded the same Certificate of Registration, as provided in the Bill in question, that invidious distinction would at once disappear. The excellent training of Poor Law nurses fits them to compete on equal terms with the nurses trained in any other institution.

“4. That the nurses working under the Local Government Board, and the sick poor in workhouse infirmarys, would therefore be greatly benefited by the proposed legislation.

“This meeting, therefore, most earnestly and respectfully requests the President of the Local Government Board to investigate this question, feeling confident that he would then give his invaluable assistance to the Bill for the Registration of Nurses.”

SIGNATORIES.

Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing under the L.G.B.

G. CLARKE (Ashton-under-Lyne).
A. M. ORCHARD (Bermondsey).
A. A. FOOTMAN (Birkenhead).
A. C. GIBSON (Birmingham).
M. A. FOGGETT (Bradford).
H. PIRIE (Bristol, Eastville).
F. E. MARQUARDT (Camberwell).
C. M. WILLIAMS (Cardiff).
M. WINMILL (Carshalton).
E. C. BARTON (Chelsea).
E. M. SMITH (Chorlton).
A. W. PAGEN (Croydon).
J. F. BALLANTYNE (Fulham).
A. L. BLACKLOCK (Gateshead).
M. M. HAMPSON (St. George's, Fulham Road).
E. A. WESLEY (St. George's-in-the-East).
S. WARD (Greenwich).
L. GRIFFITH (Hackney).
A. RADCLIFFE (Hammersmith).
E. A. KIDSON (Halifax).
A. SMITH (Kingston).

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