

gistered medical practitioners resident in Scotland; and one of whom shall be resident in Ireland, and who shall be elected by the resident medical practitioners resident in Ireland. The method of the election of these representatives shall be similar to the method adopted for the election of the direct representatives on the General Medical Council.

The Sub-Clauses proposed to be omitted from Clause 4 are as follows:—

(c) *Three registered medical practitioners to be appointed by the British Medical Association, one to be resident in England, one to be resident in Scotland, and one to be resident in Ireland;*

(d) *One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association;*

(e) *One registered medical practitioner to be appointed by the medical superintendents of the fever hospitals which may be recognised as training schools for nurses in fever nursing under this Act;*

The effect of this alteration would be to deprive the British Medical Association of representation on the Nursing Council, and to substitute persons who might know nothing of special branches of nursing, for an expert in psychology in relation to mental nursing, and an expert in the treatment of infectious diseases connected with a nursing school for the nursing of fevers.

The Nurses' Registration Bill at present provides for the representation of the medical profession by general practitioners, and poor law, fever, and mental specialists.

(2) In Clause 21, line 1, instead of "Before suspending or removing" read: "Before proceeding to consider the suspension or removal of."

This suggested addition we consider good, it makes the intention of absolute fair play to an accused nurse more emphatic, and might well be agreed to.

(3) In Clause 23, line 2, after the word "medicine" insert the words "surgery and midwifery," and in line 3, after the word "disease" insert the words "or injury."

Surely the term "medicine" includes all its branches, so that this addition appears superfluous.

To add the words "or injury" to that of "disease" would, in our opinion, be most inadvisable. For instance, to forbid a "registered nurse," or, indeed, any other person, to treat—say by first aid—an injury might lead to disaster. Accidents are now unfortunately increasingly frequent in our streets. Such a prohibition would,

we presume, prevent a "registered nurse" with knowledge and skill, from staunching hæmorrhage, and leave a person to bleed to death, would prevent the alleviation of burns, the application of artificial respiration, and other treatment of injuries. This is a thoroughly unpractical recommendation, and not likely to commend itself to the common sense of non-professional persons.

(4) The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland are of opinion that it is expedient that the General Medical Council should stand in a similar relation to the General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom as the said Council does to the Central Midwives' Board under Sections 3 and 17 of the Midwives' Act, 1902.

This would substitute the General Medical Council, which has declined to organise trained nursing, for the General Nursing Council, as the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession. It is unnecessary as registered nurses would not be independent practitioners as midwives are. Midwifery is a section of medicine, Nursing is not, and until Nursing is recognised as such, the best interests of the sick will be attained by its Governing Body being composed of those who have made practical nursing and nursing discipline a special study.

Nurses and the Nightingale Annuities.

The following anonymous letter was sent to "Matron Mollett," from the Co. Cork, and we print it to show the feeling of those nurses who approve the Annuity Scheme of the Nightingale Memorial.

MADAM,—Reading your letter in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, I consider it both heartless and selfish. Had the Matrons been included you would have written differently, or perhaps not at all. I only hope some influential person will take the matter up and reply to your letter. There are many good, noble women nurses (I don't include people of your class), and I hope they will get justice at last. Probably you have never had experience in private nursing to know of the weary days and nights spent by the side of suffering. You would perhaps have written differently. I am at present nursing the widow of an officer (colonel), and both the family and doctor in attendance strongly condemn your letter. I have been fifteen years in the nursing profession and know the Matrons.

Your letter is a disgrace to anyone bearing the title of Matron. The late Miss Florence Nightingale (God bless her memory), could she but speak, would highly approve of the scheme at present

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)