

TRAINED NURSES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Although the National Insurance Act purports to give self-government to members of Approved Societies, in reality, owing to amendments inserted at the last moment, it will not be difficult for Boards of Managers to evade the self-governing provisions; women joining Approved Societies should therefore most carefully consider how such societies are managed.

Advisory Committees, in our opinion, are illusory. Persons managing women's money usually get out an imposing list of women supporters' names, and dub them an advisory committee, though the last thing they intend is to permit them to interfere or to advise on finance.

The first principle, therefore, of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society is to so organize its constitution that the members as a whole can control the policy of the society, so that in the four quarters of the Kingdom the Boards of Management can be elected by the nurses in each division. By this devolution, local and personal supervision of the finances is possible. We print below the Draft Suggestions for such a constitution:—

DRAFT SUGGESTIONS.

- 1.—The Society shall consist of Female Sick Nurses, either trained or in training.
- 2.—There shall be a General Council for the United Kingdom of all Members, which shall meet annually.
- 3.—There shall be four National Councils, composed of the Members in each of the four kingdoms respectively, which shall elect four Boards of Management.
- 4.—The management of the Society shall be in the hands of four Boards of Management elected by the National Councils, such Boards to consist, as to at least two-thirds, of Members of the Society, and as to not more than one-third, of Advisory Members, who need not necessarily be Nurses or Members of the Society. The elected Members of the Board shall be in the proportion of one per cent. of the total membership of the National Councils.
- 5.—There shall be a Staff of paid Officers. Any Hon. Officers elected shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Board.
- 6.—All Funds shall be invested in securities either approved by Parliament for Savings Bank Funds, or in Trustee or other Securities which, for the time being, have been approved by the Insurance Commissioners.
- 7.—All contributions to be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually, as by arrangement.

8.—(1) Except as otherwise provided, every Insured Member shall be entitled to the following benefits:—

(a) Medical benefit; (b) Sanatorium benefit; (c) Sickness benefit; (d) Disablement benefit; (e) Maternity benefit; (f) Such additional benefit, if any, as the Society may give under a Scheme made by it and sanctioned by the Commissioners.

(2) Medical and Sanatorium benefits, and additional benefits in the nature of Medical benefit, are administered by the Insurance Committee for the County (or County Borough) in which the insured person entitled to them is for the time being resident.

All other benefits are administered by the Society, and all applications relative to them must be addressed to the Secretary.

N.B.—The Rules will be in conformity with the Model Rules for an Approved Society with Women Members only, issued by the Insurance Commissioners.

NURSING IN INDIA.

Many interesting speeches were made and papers read at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India and the third of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, held recently at Calcutta and reported in the *Nursing Journal of India*. The first Session was opened by Miss L. M. Tippetts, President of the Superintendents' Society, who welcomed the members and reported a large increase of membership, particularly in the Trained Nurses' Association.

Miss Tippetts was re-elected President, and Miss Creighton Vice-President, of the Superintendents' Association, and Miss Henry Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided to hold the next Conference at Bangalore in November, 1912, and a discussion followed as to the advisability of establishing a Board in each province for the Examination and Registration of Nurses.

The Indian Medical Missions Association of Southern India in 1910 appointed a sub-committee, with Miss MacDonald as convener, to consider the question of raising the standard for the training of Indian women in Mission Hospitals. As a result a form has been drawn up containing rules with regard to admission, age, standard of education, length of training, curriculum and examinations. It is suggested that a Nursing Diploma shall be granted by the Association, that the I.M.M.A. through its local branches shall appoint examiners—a Doctor and a Nursing Superintendent not connected with the hospital—annually, and that a

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