

It will be within your recollection that at the conference of nurses held at this office on the 24th ultimo it was intimated to you that the composition of the Advisory Committee must be completed at the earliest possible date, and you were asked to submit the names of any persons suggested for inclusion by the next morning. It was decided, in view of the representations made to the Commission through the conference, to include Miss Hughes, of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, in the English Advisory Committee, and the Commission regret that they cannot see their way to include any further representatives of the Nursing profession.

I may further remind you of the opportunities which will be available to women who are interested in the working of the National Insurance Act to secure representation on the Insurance Committees which will be set up under Section 59 of the Act.

Under that Section women who are insured will along with other classes of insured persons be enabled to secure the nomination of their own representatives, and, in addition, I would draw your attention to the important provisions of Section 59 (2) (ii) which require the appointment of at least four women on every Committee of a County or County Borough. The experience and qualifications possessed by many members of the profession will doubtless commend their appointment as representatives on these bodies in many instances.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT L. MORANT.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,

President, National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland,

431, Oxford Street, London, W.

May 9th, 1912.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 4th inst. in reply to mine of May 1st, addressed to Miss Mona Wilson.

At the Conference to which you allude, at which information was sought by the Commissioners from representatives of district and private nursing institutions, I asked—though probably out of order—why the trained nurses' organisations had been excluded from direct representation on the Advisory Committee to the Joint Insurance Commissioners.

As no satisfactory reply could be given to this question, the chairman, Miss Mona Wilson, kindly offered to present the views of trained nurses' organisations to the Commissioners, and I undertook to supply the information.

In reference to your statement that I was "asked to submit the names of any persons for inclusion by the next morning," such a suggestion was casually made, to which I replied that names could not be sent in without the consent of those nominated.

Moreover, it will be within your recollection

that the Commissioners, who invited nominations from trained nurses' organisations, when appointing the members of the Advisory Committee to the Joint Insurance Commissioners, entirely ignored their nominees.

Your intimation that Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, has been placed upon the English Advisory Committee, and therefore "the Commission regret that they cannot see their way to include any further representatives of the nursing profession," does not affect the principle for which trained nurses' organisations are contending, that they should be accorded the privilege of direct representation enjoyed by industrial women workers through their trades unions, and by professional women through their organisations.

It will be realised that no official of a charitable institution which employs nurses can represent the workers. Therefore the class of women, which will have to perform the greater part of the very arduous work for the sick poor under the Insurance Act, will be the only one denied independent representation on the Advisory Committees.

Until receiving your letter we hoped that the trained nurses' organisations had been omitted by inadvertence. We must now regretfully conclude that the Commissioners have deliberately excluded them.

Denied direct representation on the Advisory Committees under the National Insurance Act, it will be the duty of the nursing profession to closely watch the standard of nursing, and the remuneration of the nurses, supplied under the Act to the insured sick, in order that their educational standards, and economic remuneration may not be depreciated through a supply of cheap and inefficient contract nursing, or the insured sick deprived of the skilled nursing to which they will consider themselves entitled by compulsory payment; and it is probable that steps will be taken to form a Union of Nurses with the object of safeguarding the interests concerned.

As this matter is of great public importance, I propose to publish our correspondence.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President*.

To the Chairman,

National Insurance Commission.

National Health Insurance Commission (England),  
Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

May 16th, 1912.

SIR,—I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 10th, in regard to the representation of the nursing profession upon the Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission. The Commission carefully considered the important question of obtaining the services upon their Advisory Committee of Nurses specially

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