

will satisfy itself that those interests are safeguarded.

We suggest that on the form of application for registration, information should be required whether the proprietor is a Trained Nurse, what her qualification is, the number of beds in the Home, and the number of certificated nurses employed. Whether any probationers are employed and whether they are paid, receive no salary, or are engaged as paying pupils.

As there is at present no registration of Trained Nurses we venture to suggest that the Public Control Committee of the London County Council should co-opt some professional nurses to examine these credentials. Without the definition of professional standards it appears to us futile and useless to enforce registration of Nursing Homes.

We note that, in connection with employment agencies, the London County Council interprets its duty to include the maintenance of professional standards, and has recently refused to renew the licence of a teacher of massage on account of the insufficiency of the standards he maintained. We submit, with respect, that it is of vital importance that inefficient persons should not be permitted to claim that they are qualified to nurse the sick under the authority of the London County Council, and that efficiency will certainly be assumed by the public in Superintendents of Nursing Homes which are registered by the Council. Some test of their efficiency should therefore be imposed.

Another point which we regard as essential to the adequate working of the Act is that the Inspectors appointed to carry out its provision should be certificated nurses, holding in addition certificates of training as sanitary inspectors. *This appears to us a point of first importance.* Nursing is a highly specialised art, and an untrained woman is not competent to supervise work requiring special knowledge, where the lives of the public are at stake.

We desire, very emphatically, to urge this point upon the attention of the Parliamentary Committee, both in regard to the efficient administration of the Act, and because resentment would inevitably, and we think justly, be felt, if highly skilled and responsible Superintendents of Nursing Homes were subjected to inspection by persons who may be conversant with the requirements of the Shop Act, but who know nothing of Nursing, or of the requirements of the sick; under such circumstances friction is bound to occur, both with the medical and nursing authorities.

In this connection we desire to point out that a salary of £100 per annum, such as has been mentioned as that proposed for Inspectors of Lying-in Homes, would not be adequate to attract trained nurses with the qualifications above mentioned, and with the tact, and knowledge of the world, necessary in carrying out the duties of Inspectors in Nursing Homes, as such women can command salaries at a much higher rate in other branches of work.

One more point we should like to mention as important. Apparently it will be penal for any Home which is not a registered Lying-in Home, to

receive a maternity case. Such cases are not infrequently sent by medical practitioners into general Nursing Homes, and we consider that it should be competent to a registered Nursing Home to receive them for treatment under medical direction. A number of such cases are of a complicated nature, and many physicians and surgeons will prefer to send them into the Home usually used by them, and where their requirements are understood, rather than into a registered Lying-in Home of which they know nothing.

We desire in conclusion to call attention to the fact that, in the analogous case of the registration of Lying-in Homes, the Council has a remedy at hand, if a certified midwife is, in the opinion of its Inspectors, conducting it improperly. The Central Midwives' Board, if a *prima facie* case of misconduct is reported, will investigate the charge, and, if proved, will censure the midwife; or, in extreme cases, remove her name from the Roll of Midwives. There is no similar authority to maintain standards and exercise discipline in the ranks of trained nurses, and the National Council of Trained Nurses ventures to suggest to the London County Council the desirability of drawing the attention of Parliament, and of the Home Secretary to this lack of organisation, and to the great disadvantages arising therefrom, and to the desirability of passing without delay, a Nurses' Registration Bill, to regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for the maintenance of discipline in their ranks.

The Chairman said that the Committee were very much obliged to Mrs. Fenwick and the National Council for their able report, which would assist it greatly in considering the Bill.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. Davies as to whether the National Council proposed any specific amendment to the Bill, Mrs. Fenwick replied that this was not possible, as the Council had not been able to secure a copy of the Bill, which was not at present available for the public.

Mrs. Fenwick having referred to the proposal that the Council's powers should be limited to inspection, and that in the case of proceedings being instituted, this duty should be delegated to the Borough Councils, the authority for dealing with disorderly houses, the Chairman stated that the Bill proposed that the Council should prosecute.

A member said that apparently the National Council thought that the Public Health provisions should be applied to Nursing Homes as well as to Lying-in Homes.

The Chairman said that the object of the Council in bringing in the Bill was to prevent immorality. They were hopeful that the Bill would do good.

Lord Alexander Thynne said he understood that the National Council was in favour of

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