

day on which the Board intend to deal with the case and decide upon the said charge. The notice shall further require the accused person to forward her certificate to the Secretary before or at the hearing of the case, to answer in writing the charges brought against her, and to attend before the Board on such day."

Fundamental principles of British justice are that a person is innocent until he is proved guilty, and that every accused person has the right to be heard in his own defence, and these principles should be observed by the governing body of every profession, and insisted upon by those governed.

THE COUNCIL.

When we study the constitution of the Council of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, which has assumed such extensive powers, we find that it consists of twenty members, and that the twelve founders of the Society (two of whom are now deceased) were appointed members for life, and that a proportion of them are engaged in the active practice of massage. In order, therefore, to avoid any charge, with or without foundation, that preferential treatment is given to members of the Council, they should, in our opinion, submit themselves periodically to re-election, and further, all members should have the right to nominate members of Council. We understand that this has not been the practice until the present year, when, we are glad to hear, nominations were invited in writing.

It appears that the Council have the functions of both judge and jury, and it would seem very advisable that the two functions should be distinct.

Again, the Society maintains a registry of members, who must hold its certificate and be nominated by other members. If on the register, they pay percentage on cases obtained through the Society, as decided by it, and it is only when no member of the Society is available that work is passed on to those who are certificate-holders only.

The officials of the Society therefore largely control the distribution of work and financial success amongst masseuses, which makes it all the more imperative that all certificate holders should be entitled to representation.

UNPROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

It is a curious fact that while the Society prohibits its members from advertising in any way whatever, except in recognised medical papers, it places its own official announcements in papers which, from the nursing point of view, are unprofessional, inasmuch as they are neither edited, owned, nor controlled by trained nurses, and that it imposes, as a condition, that only advertisements of schools and teachers which it recognises shall appear in the same column. It may be necessary to require an undertaking to this effect from trade publications for nurses, owned and edited by the laity, but a professional nursing journal has the same ethical standards

as a professional medical journal, and demands the same control of its advertising department. No self-respecting professional editor can therefore accept such terms.

We consider, therefore, that the Society which has done much for the profession of massage in its infancy will now be well advised to consider the amendment of its Constitution on broad and liberal lines, and that such amendment should be discussed not only by the Council of the Society, but by all certificate holders, who, whether they are members of the Society or not, form the profession of massage as a whole, and should have a vote for the personnel of their Certificating Body, as all registered medical practitioners have for the direct representatives on the General Medical Council.

We are of opinion that, as constituted and worked at present, the Council of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses has, perhaps inadvertently, established a monopoly in massage.

This is inadvisable for the healthy progress and practice of any profession, and it is not improbable that if its Constitution is not made more comprehensive, a rival Examining Body will be organized.

SPAT UPON.

In a letter on the treatment of British prisoners in Germany, Lord Charles Beresford says:—

I have received numerous letters from relatives and prisoners themselves. I will summarize the contents, which are heartbreaking. Many letters beseech that bread should be sent. Others contain the following information: Devilish treatment, cowardly and malicious ill-usage, insulted all day, forced to do filthy and disgusting jobs of work, clubbed with rifles, fired at, bayoneted in the arms and legs, spat upon; great coats, tunics, money and tobacco taken; made to travel in horse boxes deep in filth, their eyes being affected by the ammonia arising; confined for thirty hours in trucks without food or water, marched through the streets on show, and insulted and assaulted by the populace, the guards not interfering. At Lille the British wounded were found quite naked, their identification discs having been cut off; many of them died from exhaustion. Wounded men fell down at the railway stations; they were kicked in the stomach and face and then kicked back into the carriages. At one station, a blind man put his head out of the window, and the crowd spat in his face. When prisoners die there is no inquiry; they are just taken out and buried.

We commend this paragraph to the notice of the Proprietors of the *Nursing Times*, who have not yet had the courtesy or courage to inform the Nursing Profession whether or not that publication is edited and its policy controlled by a lady of German parentage who has been resident in England under an assumed name.

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