

the less noble because it is carried on unobtrusively among the sick and suffering at home, whose needs are perhaps greater than ever owing to the exceptional conditions existing in the country.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Derby and Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Association held recently the following presentations were made by the Mayoress:—

A purse of gold for 20 years' service, Nurse Elizabeth Bushell, and Nurse Lydia Grimes; silver badges for 14 years' service, Nurse Gertrude Hardy and Nurse Kate Cowan; Bibles for seven years' service, Nurse Amy Hardy, Nurse Winifred Harper (on active service abroad), Nurse Alice Bell, Nurse S. Monteith, Nurse Edith K. Dobson, Nurse Annie Aiken, Nurse Aline Capp.

A cheque was also presented to the Lady Superintendent (Miss Agnes H. Atthill), "for 21 years' faithful and devoted services." In making the presentation, the Mayoress said Miss Atthill's name would go down in the records of the institution for the important part she had played in its work. In Derby her name was a household word, and those who had come under her as nurses had been as angels in many homes.

Miss Atthill thanked the Board of Management for their gift, and the Mayoress for her kind words. She also thanked the nurses for their loyalty and devotion to her.

REGISTRATION MISREPRESENTED.

The attack made by Miss Sparshott, Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, on the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the refutation thereof by its President, has flashed its fiery course through the columns of the *Manchester Courier*, and we have to thank the Editor for promptly inserting our communications.

The only point in the attack of any importance was the statement made by Miss Sparshott that she was sending "to all the nurses in and around Manchester the following circular, which has been drawn up by Lord Knutsford, Chairman of the London Hospital."

A PURPOSELY MISLEADING CIRCULAR.

TO THE NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Have Nurses ever carefully considered the

CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

to whom, by the Registration of Nurses Bill, it is proposed to hand over the following vital matters:

- (a) To decide what hospitals are to be training schools;
- (b) To settle the whole curriculum of training,
- (c) And whose examination nurses must pass before they can be registered.

Here is its composition:

- 3 Nominees of the Privy Council—one to be a woman.
- 8 General practitioners.
- 1 General practitioner (or male nurse).
- 1 Mental nurse—male or female.
- 8 Registered nurses—of whom three shall be past or present matrons of training schools for nurses.

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A Council of 21, on which there must be eight, or may be nine, General Practitioners.

While General Practitioners are quite competent judges of results, what can they know about the Training of Nurses?

Yet this Council is the chosen Council, chosen after mature deliberation, by those who profess to have the interests of nurses at heart!

There is no guarantee that on this Council there will be a Single Acting Matron of any Training School for Nurses.

516 Matrons of Hospitals and Institutions
and

3,382 Nurses have already signed a Protest
against this Bill.

KNUTSFORD.

In our communication we pointed out that the substitution by Lord Knutsford of the words, "general practitioners" for "registered medical practitioners," which appear in the Bill, was purposely misleading, and further that very serious consideration was given by the experts who drafted the Bill to medical representation, which is provided for as follows:—

CONSTITUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL.

4.—(1) The Council shall consist of twenty-one persons to be appointed or elected as follows:—

- (a) Three persons to be appointed by the Privy Council of whom one at least shall be a woman;
- (b) Three registered medical practitioners, one to be appointed by the Local Government Board for England, one by the Local Government Board for Scotland, and one by the Local Government Board for Ireland;
- (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.

Thus medical opinion on nursing under Local Government Board Authority, in private practice, through the British Medical Association, through mental and fever specialists, will be adequately represented in the deliberations of the Nursing Council.

We also added:—

"Lord Knutsford's statement that there is no safe provision for seats for Matrons in active practice who may, or may not have the confidence of the electorate of registered Matrons and Nurses, is correct. The Bill has been largely drafted by Matrons in active practice, who are prepared to submit their names to a popular election, and thus accord to the electorate the right of the whole profession to appoint direct representatives on its own governing body."

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