

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Of course the inevitable has happened, and Lord Knutsford has butted into the registration controversy in support of Miss Sparshott's attack upon the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in the *Manchester Courier*, which she declines to substantiate.

All the time-worn, unconvincing arguments are again advanced by Lord Knutsford against the professional demand for legal status by trained nurses, and the usual abuse is levelled at the "plaintiff's attorney." Imagine water on a duck's back—that is how Lord Knutsford's irrelevancies affect us personally, but we were compelled to reply to his inaccuracies in the *Courier* of July 12th in connection with his circular distributed by Miss Sparshott to "all the nurses in and around Manchester."

What is a registered medical practitioner? Lord Knutsford says:—

"I wrote that on this precious Council of twenty-one, eight, and possibly nine, were to be 'general practitioners.' Mrs. Fenwick says this is not so, because the words in the proposed Act are 'registered medical practitioners.' What can anyone understand by this but 'general practitioners'? Would consultants not be otherwise described if consultants were meant? Would they not be described as Fellows of the College of Physicians, or Surgeons, or as men holding certain degree? There is no definition in the Act of 'registered medical practitioners,' so we are left to guess what is meant."

Mrs. Fenwick replies:—

"Lord Knutsford attempts to defend his deliberate substitution [in his circular] of the words 'general practitioner' for 'registered medical practitioner.' As a barrister-at-law, he should know that the term 'registered medical practitioner' is the legal term applied to all those who practise medicine—whatever their qualifications—whose names are entered on the Medical Register. By the use of this term in the Nurses' Registration Bill the bodies appointing medical representatives on to the General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom have therefore the whole Medical Register from which to select their delegates."

Thus consultants as well as general practitioners are eligible, and of course many of the latter are Fellows of the College of Surgeons.

Miss Sparshott states that if the Nurses Registration Bill were carried into law "it would give powers to people who had no idea how to use them."

Lord Knutsford supports Miss Sparshott in the following paragraph:—

"But, in any view, what do nurses think of a Council of twenty-one on which there are only to be eight nurses? I know well that many earnest nurses want registration, but I know also that many equally earnest do not. I deny that the Bill was 'drafted by matrons in active practice.' Its origin is too well known."

To which Mrs. Fenwick makes answer:—

"Lastly, Lord Knutsford denies that the Bill was 'drafted by matrons in active practice.' (I said 'largely,' but let that pass.)

"The following are the names of the matrons in active practice who, under the chairmanship of Lord Amphill, as members of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, took part in its deliberations when the Nurses' Registration Bill was considered clause by clause, and adopted in its present form:—

"*Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.*—The late Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, London; Miss G. A. Rogers, Matron of the Leicester Infirmary; Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital; Miss E. M. Musson, Matron General Hospital, Birmingham.

"*Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.*—Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Force, Nursing Service; Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent of London County Council School Nurses.

"*Fever Nurses' Association.*—Miss E. M. Bann, Matron of the Brook Fever Hospital, Shooters Hill, M.A.B.; Miss L. A. Morgan, Matron Northern Fever Hospital, Winchmore Hill, M.A.B.

"*Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland.*—Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Miss Cowper, Superintendent, Scottish Branch, Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute.

"*Scottish Nurses' Association.*—Miss M. Wright, Matron, Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow; Miss K. Burleigh, Lady Superintendent, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

"*Irish Nurses' Association.*—Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron, Guy's Hospital, London; Miss Huxley, Matron, Elpis Private Hospital, Dublin; Miss B. Kelly, Matron, Steevens' Hospital, Dublin; Miss A. Reeves, Matron, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin; Miss I. Keogh, Matron, Richmond Hospital, Dublin; and the late Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Lady Superintendent, City of Dublin Nursing Institution.

"No further evidence is required of the totally unreliable statements made by Lord Knutsford in his irreconcilable antipathy to the emancipation of the trained nurse from her present defenceless position in the body politic."

As these are the type of "people" to whom "powers" would be given if the Registration Bill were carried into law "we disagree with Miss Sparshott's statement that they would have "no idea how to use them," and think a Registration Council largely composed of such experts would command the confidence of the whole nursing profession.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING IN LONDON.

A meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London will be held at the Offices of the Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W., at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 20th, when the principal matter to be discussed will be provision for the district nursing of measles, German measles, and whooping cough in poor homes, on which the Executive will submit recommendations.

The Council seeks to bring into unison both voluntary and official effort, and to develop the efficiency of the District Nursing Services of London according to need, and to meet modern requirements.

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