

Nursing Associations, and from Nurses in the active practice of their calling.

The solidarity of the Nursing Profession being a matter of paramount importance, it is essential that there should be only one Certificate of General Training for all nurses wherever trained. At the present time, however, the nurses of the best London and Provincial Hospitals and Infirmaries are able to make a living on the reputation of the Nursing Certificates they hold from their own Schools, and thus have comparatively little inducement to enter for, and incidentally to pay fees for, any further qualifying examination. Hence the importance to the scheme of the countenance and active participation of the Authorities of the leading Nurse-Training Schools, and hence the provision, under stringent safeguards as to standard, for accepting the internal examinations of recognised Schools as qualifying for the Certificates of Proficiency to be granted by the College. Moreover, such a concession avoids excessive centralisation, whilst it gives an incentive to backward Institutions to improve their curricula, teaching facilities, and tests, so that they may gain the status of recognised Schools, and thus be saved the necessity of sending their nurses elsewhere to sit for the College Examinations.

In view of the inclusion of the whole of the United Kingdom in the scheme, and the geographical difficulties thus introduced, power is taken in the Articles of Association to establish Local Boards, which may exercise in their respective areas "any of the powers, authorities, and discretions for the time being vested in the Council," and some progress has already been made in regard to Scotland.

Reverting to the constitution and functions of the Consultative Board, for which, as I have already said, the Council now invite your Managers to nominate not more than two persons, I would remark that under the Articles of Association, it is to consist of "such number of persons as the Council shall from time to time determine," and to be "elected from amongst Physicians, Surgeons, Hospital Matrons and Principal Officers, Superintendents of Nursing, Trained Nurses, and persons interested in the relations between Nurses and the Public." Amongst the functions assigned to the Consultative Board are:—

- (1) To deliberate in regard to any question submitted to it by the Council, and to report to the Council the result of the consultation thereon.
- (2) On the initiative of any Member of the Consultative Board to consider, if thought advisable, any subject within the scope of the Memorandum of Association; and, if thought advisable, to report thereon to the Council.

In order to ensure for the Consultative Board the fullest possible influence and authority in the College compatible with the position of the Council as the Governing Body, it is laid down that the Council shall always invite and receive a Report from the Consultative Board before

coming to a determination upon any of the following matters, viz.:—

- (1) The courses of study and technical training for persons intended for the Nursing Profession.
- (2) The conditions under which recognition may be extended to Nursing Schools.

For facilitating the work of the Consultative Board the Council has formed a Consultative Committee, with power to add to its numbers from amongst persons appointed on the Board, so that business may be put before the full Board in such a way as not to make too great claims upon the time of its Members, many of whom can only give occasional attendance in London.

From what has been said it will be evident that the work of the Board is chiefly of a professional character, but Managers of Hospitals may find that the revision of Nursing curricula entails extra expense in the matter of lectures, classrooms, and proper facilities for study. Consequently some representation of the Lay element in the management of Hospitals and Infirmaries appears to me to be desirable, in order that this point of view may receive due attention at the deliberations of the Board.

Until it is seen what response is made to this invitation, the Council is not in a position to elect the Consultative Board, or to fix its number, but, if the nominations are too numerous for efficient working, it may be necessary either to make a selection amongst them or to formulate some plan for representation on the Board by groups or districts. This, however, will be a matter for subsequent consideration, and meanwhile it is most important that as little time as possible should elapse before attacking some at least of the many problems which await solution before the College can take its place as the Central Organization of the Nursing Profession throughout the United Kingdom.

Again apologising for any inadvertent error in the transmission of my previous communications, and requesting the favour of an early reply,

I am, dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. STANLEY,
Chairman of the Council.

VERY MUCH STIRRED.

A Sister in a large hospital writes:—"Here the whole nursing staff is very much stirred over the Nursing College Scheme. They quite realise that if support is given to it, trained nurses will be like fish in a net, by no amount of wriggling can they escape, because they can be coerced by hospital Committees and Matrons into joining the College. They strongly resent the suggestion that the nursing profession shall be made to cover the registration of V.A.D.'s, and in consequence the depreciation of their training and skilled work."

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