

the Council, and will ultimately be neither more nor less than an annual conference with no executive functions of any description. The Council of the College will for all practical purposes consist of persons elected by the members of the College of Nursing, namely, the Registered Nurses with a provision that, if thought fit, there may be representatives thereon of the Privy Council, and any Government Department and of the medical profession, but in any case the members of the Council as to two-thirds will be nurses, and, as Mr. Stanley pointed out at the meeting, the nurses will manage their own affairs. It seems clear that the whole question of the recognition of training schools, the curriculum of the training, and the method of training and examination, are matters which will in future be dealt with by the Council of the College of Nursing. The Bill in its passage through Parliament should be carefully watched, and the necessary safeguards inserted, not only in the Bill but in any rules made under Clause 4 thereof to protect the interests of the Poor-Law training schools. We are of opinion that as the fate of something like one hundred Poor-Law training schools will be more or less in the hands of the Council there should be direct representation of these schools on the Council."

NATIONAL POOR-LAW OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Suffolk Branch of the N.P.L.O.A., Mr. L. W. Greenhalgh, Clerk to the Ipswich Guardians, speaking of the future work of the Association, said:—"I am of opinion that the most important matter before the Association at the present time is the College of Nursing, and its effects upon the Poor-Law Nursing Service."

He described the regulations of the College and the proposal to obtain a Bill for the registration of nurses, and continued: "There are a number of problems to be solved so far as the Poor-Law service is concerned, including the position of Poor-Law Nurses trained in Poor-Law hospitals not recognised by the Local Government Board. Further, the existing problem of securing skilled nursing for the inmates of the hospital wards of Poor-Law institutions in the rural districts is also likely to be affected by the provisions of the Bill and the restrictions on the employment of unregistered nurses which may be the outcome thereof. For these and other reasons, it is of vital importance that the membership of our Association should be strengthened by the accession of Poor-Law nurses in large numbers, so as to give the Association power to act on their behalf."

Again let us urge Poor-Law Nurses to act upon their own behalf. Why does not the Poor-Law Matrons' Association take the initiative and help them? The interests of the rank and file are imperative in the organization of the nursing profession—and are not best served without consulting them. Our matrons should be our professional leaders—but not our governors or our grandmothers.

AN OPEN LETTER TO POOR LAW MATRONS AND NURSES.

A meeting of the Poor Law Matrons' Association was held recently at Chelsea Infirmary "to wish good luck to the College of Nursing," and ladies spoke in warm praise of its ideals. But, seriously, do all these ladies really approve of the clauses of its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and are they in earnest when, as one said, "Mr. Stanley's plan could not be improved"? The "Memo." is before me. I ask the members of the Poor Law Matrons' Association if they approve and recommend Poor Law nurses to support the following objects:—1. (a) To adopt, if thought fit, the results of examinations held by approved Nursing Schools as sufficient evidence of proficiency.

This, of course, is to give preference and privilege to the large hospital training schools. It would place Poor Law Infirmary nurses in an inferior position, as the infirmaries would not be exempted from a test examination. Moreover, it cuts at the very root of the Central Examination for all nurses, which is imperative if justice is to be done to Poor Law nurses; and, considering that it is printed in the slips of the objects of the College being widely distributed, that object (b) is "To establish a uniform curriculum of training, and a one portal (that is, one standard) examination," I do not see how both objects can stand. If the large hospitals' examinations are to be accepted for registration, then the promise of a "one portal examination" for all cannot be enforced.

Again, take (c); this clause provides that after nurses have passed prescribed examinations, "The College shall not grant, or profess to grant, titles or diplomas."

Did ever before a Collegiate Institution, professing to be an educational authority, and indeed demanding a monopoly to define nursing education, register and control trained nurses, take power to deprive them of honourable titular recognition? The Royal British Nurses' Association, which is a Royal Chartered Body, grants a diploma after examination; there is nothing to prevent other educational authorities doing the same; but the College of Nursing actually, whilst claiming supreme power over the Nursing Profession, at the same time demands the right to deny its members any recognition of their professional attainments. Why are nurses to be kept at one dead level of certification? Surely we might aspire to an Honours test over and above the recognised minimum standard for registration.

Then consider the Articles. Is it really thought advisable that "subscribers," no matter who, are to be eligible to be members along with the registered nurses of the Nursing College? Imagine the laity being able to buy membership of the Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons; or of the Law Council, or indeed of any professional body. Nursing is just as much a highly-skilled scientific profession as medicine, is, indeed, interdependent with it. Why, therefore, should the Archbishop of

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