

gave the Hon. Officers a loophole for neglecting to conform to the requisition—and that meeting was never summoned by them.

When these same gentlemen drafted the Bye Laws of 1898, they took care to insert 100 instead of 50, as the number of members who might requisition a meeting; but as those Bye Laws deprived the Nurses of all power in their own Association, and established official medical control which has lasted to this day, no more has been heard of the question. The new Bye Laws go one better, in so far as autocracy is concerned, and, as we have pointed out, they practically deprive the Nurse members of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing of any power of protest in meeting assembled.

AN UNPROFESSIONAL COUNCIL.

The new Council is to be an unprofessional body. It is to be composed of hospital and infirmary Managers, hospital and infirmary officers, doctors (male and female), persons and Bodies interested in Nursing, Matrons and Trained Nurses. Such a Council can never be representative of the opinion of professional women. We may take it, therefore, that for the future Nursing will be relegated to a Domestic avocation, and there appears no valid reason why hospital ward-maids, cooks and laundry maids and other women workers should not be included in the scope of the activities of the Royal College of Nursing as provided under Clause (a) of the Purposes and Powers of its Supplemental Charter.

THE SECRETARY AND THE REGISTRAR—DUAL CONTROL.

Clauses 21 and 22 provide for dual control in the office of the College. Both the Secretary and the Registrar are to "be responsible directly to the Council." Nothing could be more fatal to discipline and efficiency. During the months in which the Secretaries of the to be amalgamated Bodies have been working together, the question of precedence and equality has arisen, and neither lady has felt inclined to give way. Now the joint officials have decided for equality of power. It won't work.

We well remember the storm in a teacup over this very question in the early days of the R.B.N.A. We had a Secretary, and a senior clerk working under her as Registrar. Well and good. Then one fine day, a step-daughter of a member of the Committee was appointed Registrar (all the Matrons voted against the proposal). This lady claimed the right to open letters addressed to the "Registrar." The Secretary rightly claimed that unless she opened letters confusion resulted, and that there must be one head. The Hon. Nurse Secretary threatened to resign, the Royal President was appealed to. The step-papa took the whole hubbub as a "personal insult." It may be imagined how the feathers flew! In the end the "Registrar" resigned. The Secretary recovered control of the office, a new clerk kept the "Register" and peace was restored for a time. But only for a time, because male

interference with women's work continued, and many other foolish suggestions distracted the Association and ruined its prestige and power. We feel convinced the male Hon. Officers of the Corporations to be amalgamated have drafted Clauses 21 and 22 providing for dual control.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Irish Nurses' Association will hold its Annual Meeting on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, when no doubt an interesting report will be presented of a year's very strenuous work. "The apple of discord," thrown quite gratuitously into the midst of the Irish Nursing world by the College of Nursing, Limited, "which has been established whether the nurses want it or not," could have avoided arousing much unnecessary friction if it had treated the organized registrationists grouped in the Irish Nurses' Association with ordinary courtesy, instead of attempting to thrust upon them a form of Constitution to which the Irish nurses will never conform.

As an Hon. Member of the Irish Matrons' Association, if we may venture to express an opinion on Irish nurses' affairs, our ambition would be to see in Dublin a College of Nurses of Ireland in touch with the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland, as headquarters of nursing education in the Emerald Isle. This academic institution should be the Educational and not the Disciplinary Authority for nurses in Ireland, and should bear the same relation to a General Nursing Council, set up by Act of Parliament, as the Medical Colleges do to the General Medical Council.

The education and registration of nurses in England and Scotland might be organized in the same way. National prestige would then be maintained, and the extreme danger of an economic monopoly in nursing avoided—a monopoly which is inevitable under the proposed Constitution of the Royal British College of Nursing.

THE COLLEGE PARTY IN DUBLIN.

Miss Reed and some of the English trained matrons in Dublin, who are in favour of the British College Scheme, are inviting their colleagues to form an Irish Board. We fear nothing but dissension will result if they persist in an anti-National policy, as the Irish Nurses are determined not to be governed from London by a nominated Council, which has taken power to make rules and regulations and define registration standards, on which they can be outvoted by six to one.

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

Miss Mary A. Brunton has been appointed Secretary of the Scottish Board. The office is established at West End, George Street Chambers, Edinburgh. Miss Brunton holds certificates as a trained nurse, sanitary inspector and midwife.

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