

would obviously be a breach of confidence on the part of the College of Nursing, of which you are not a Member, to give information which the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association has refused you as a member of that body.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,  
M. S. RUNDLE,  
*Secretary.*

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., FROM MISS H. HAWKINS.

127, Friern Barnet Road, N.  
March 2nd, 1917.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of March 1st, and to inform you that, in my opinion, it is not only a breach of confidence, but an intolerable injustice, that the Honorary Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the Executive Committee of the College of Nursing, Ltd., should enter into a secret agreement concerning the powers and privileges of the Members of our Chartered Corporation which they evidently dare not make public.

Please convey to Mr. Stanley my determination, at all events, not to submit to such dangerous tyranny without further protest.

I am, yours faithfully,  
HENRIETTA HAWKINS,

### WHAT IRISH NURSES WANT TO KNOW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROPOSED ROYAL BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSING.

(Continued from page 156.)

The following Questions have been sent to us by Irish Nurses:—

8. Q. What is the nature of the Secret Agreement between the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing? Why should not nurses know what those pledges are, so that they can express an opinion upon them?

A. We cannot answer this question. And as our readers will see from the correspondence published in this Journal, between Miss H. Hawkins, Life Member R.B.N.A., and the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd., the men who have entered into this secret compact decline to enlighten the Nurse Members of the Chartered Corporation on its nature. We are of opinion that such action upon the part of the conjoint Hon. Officers—because it is these men who absolutely govern both the R.B.N.A. and the College—is not only an insult to the Nurse Members of both Corporations, but a proceeding which every woman who resents such intolerable treatment should bring to the notice of His Majesty's Privy Council. When one realises the indignity thus inflicted on the whole nursing profession one wonders if the nurses of this country are really British subjects or not.

9. Q. Does the College of Nursing intend to promote a Bill providing for an independent General Nursing Council to carry out the Nurses' Registration Act or not?

A. Apparently not. The last thing which the real promoters of the College desire is any independent representation of the nurses on the General Nursing Council. This is the point at issue between the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the College Council. In the Bill drafted by the Central Committee, representatives of independent organised authorities of nurses and doctors, which have supported State Registration for many years, form the Provisional Council, to make the rules and regulations which the nurses will have to obey. To this principle of direct representation of the profession the College has declined to accede, and we gather that the representatives of the Nurses' Organisations are to be jealously excluded from representation, as at present, on the new Provisional Council, until it has completed its task of framing the rules under which the nurses may be registered and to which they must agree to conform.

There is no longer any ambiguity about the constitution or the temper of the College. It is practically governed by laymen, and those controlled by the Nursing Schools, and by the exclusion of independent professional opinion and action it will continue to be so.

To quote the written word:—

Clause 5 of the proposed Agreement between the R.B.N.A. and the College states that "the Association shall as soon as the amalgamation with the College is completed, promote or otherwise take steps to obtain an Act of Parliament for the Registration of Nurses, and the keeping of a Register or Registers of Nurses."

But we find defined in the Supplemental Charter, under the heading of "Extension of Purposes and Powers of the Corporation," Sub-section (e), that the real proposal is that of "Recognition" of the College Register, and not the State Registration of the whole Profession, as defined in the Nurses' Registration Bill. The Clause is as follows:—

"(e) To promote legislation to provide for the State recognition of and protection of the official Register and for the development and protection of the Profession of Nursing, and for the carrying into effect of the Principal Charter and this Charter."

So that the form of legislation proposed by the College is to give the College the monopoly of keeping a Register or Registers of Nurses, and nowhere throughout the Supplemental Charter or Bye Laws is any term or standard of training defined, or protection sought for the title of "Registered Nurse"; such as are carefully provided for in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee.

Moreover, we note the most scrupulous care—and this is very important—that throughout the Agreement, the Supplemental Charter, and the Bye-Laws of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing, the word "trained" has been

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