

rigorously excluded, before every mention of "nurses" and "nursing," in the scheme of the College for the organisation of the Profession of Nursing.

10. Q. When State Registration is accomplished, may a nurse be a member of the College, or not, as she chooses?

A. This depends upon the Provisions of the Bill.

11. Q. Or is a nurse to be compelled, by the Training School, to register with the College, and thus be a member automatically?

A. This again depends upon the Clauses of the Bill, but the Supplemental Charter provides that at the date of the Charter all those whose names are on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and all members of the College become automatically members of the Royal British College of Nursing.

This means that persons who strongly object, as we do, to many of the autocratic provisions, and to certain of the personnel on the nominated College Council, are compulsorily made members of a Corporation the constitution of which they do not approve, and which actually has the audacity to propose to keep from the members the nature of the secret agreement drafted for their future government.

Trained nurses are not compelled to register with the College, although the greatest pressure is being placed upon them to do so; but nurses in training are absolutely at the mercy of their committees and Matrons, and can be coerced into placing themselves under its authority. In our opinion, the men who drafted the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing, the Directory Bill, and other coercive measures, have fully calculated the result of their despotic provisions.

12. Q. If so, if a nurse objects to the management of the College, does she lose her registration if she resigns membership?

A. We think not, because she has been compelled to pay a fee for registration.

13. Q. As under proposed Bye-law 8, the President and the Council can summon a special meeting at will, why may the members not enjoy the same privilege? As it is provided that 100 members of the Corporation must have the support of one-fourth of the Council in requisitioning a special meeting, the latter provision practically deprives the members of power to summon a special meeting, and provides for a very autocratic, not democratic, form of Government.

A. Bye-law 8 provides that the Royal President, and also the Council may at any time "order" a Special General Meeting, but the provision that before 100 members can requisition a Special Meeting the requisition must also be signed by not less than one-fourth of the members of the Council, practically deprives the members of any power to call a meeting, and thus express any opinion adverse to the Governing body.

In the first Bye Laws under the Royal Charter 50 members might requisition a meeting—

although when they did so, the Hon. Officers did not summon it. In the 1898 Bye Laws, drafted by the Hon. Medical Officers, this privilege was taken away, and 100 instead of 50 members had to requisition such a meeting. Now with unparalleled autocracy the Hon. Officers of the amalgamated Corporations have inserted a cunning Clause providing that one-fourth of the Council must also sign the requisition and thus agree to criticism of their probable mismanagement before the Nurse Members can call a Special Meeting. This provision is calculated, and we believe purposely, to prevent any free expression of opinion by the Nurse Members of the Royal British College of Nursing.

No more contemptuous proposition has ever been made by the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. in connection with their intolerable assumption of authority for twenty years over the Nurse Members, and if British women will submit to a Constitution incorporating such a Clause we fear that their sense of self-respect and professional responsibility is absolutely non-existent.

SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Christian Institute, 70, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, on Saturday, 3rd March.

In the absence of the President, Miss Melrose, R.R.C., Vice-President, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, took the Chair.

Thirty-seven members were present, representing a wide area of Scotland.

After the usual preliminaries the annual reports of the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary were presented. The Hon. Treasurer's report showed a small balance in hand.

The Secretary's report showed the sustained interest in the work of the Association on the part of the members, by their presence at the Meetings, unless prevented by distance, or pressure of work, and stated that the membership now stands at 130.

Twenty-one Members are or have been on active service and six of these have received the decoration of R.R.C. and two that of A.R.R.C. Congratulations were offered.

The report includes the first annual report of the Edith Cavell Memorial Annuity Fund which is now closed. It was inaugurated over a year ago by the Association and provides annuities for retired nurses of small means to enable them to meet the cost of residence in the King Edward Memorial Home (Scotland).

It was intimated by the Hon. Secretary of the Fund that three small annuities had been granted, and that two are still available. Applications for conditions and rules to be made to the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, Miss Graham, 15, Alva Street, Edinburgh. It was resolved by the meeting to inaugurate from a small nucleus in hand, a "Scottish Nurses' Annuity Fund" for retired nurses with no condition of residence attached.

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