

and of Guy's, Westminster, Charing Cross, King's College, London, St. Mary's, St. George's, and other institutions, with the exception of the Matrons of Guy's and St. George's.

MEMORIAL OF NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL AUTHORITIES.

"We, the undersigned, beg the favour of your insertion of the following statement, which we think desirable to make, in view of the paragraph which has been published on the subject of State Registration of Nurses, in which we note with surprise the statement that the main object of the British Nurses' Association 'is in conformity with a great public want and a widespread professional demand.'

"We would wish to point out that those who represent the largest Nursing interests in the Metropolis and throughout the country, and who have the most to do with the training and examination of Nurses, have not only declined to take part in the Association, but consider that its proposed enrolment of Nurses in a common Register, if carried out, would (1) lower the position of the best trained Nurses; (2) be detrimental to the advancement of the teaching of Nursing; (3) be disadvantageous to the public; and (4) be injurious to the medical practitioner.

"We hope that a final judgment upon this important matter will be postponed until the views of those who are opposed to the aims of this Association have been expressed and examined. We further consider it our duty to state that if a Charter be applied for, on the lines stated in the prospectus of the British Nurses' Association, we shall feel it incumbent upon us to offer thereto all legitimate opposition in our power."

The signatories were as good as their word, and their opposition before the Privy Council which advised Her late Majesty Queen Victoria to grant the Charter, cost the Association upwards of £1,000—and, as we are told in the "Life of Florence Nightingale," the opposition paid nearly as much.

WIND-UP OF COLLEGE COMPANY.

(2) The second asset is that "forthwith upon the amendment of the existing Charter or the grant of a Supplemental Charter . . . all necessary steps shall be taken to liquidate and wind up the College of Nursing, Ltd.," and many of the most objectionable provisions in its intolerable constitution are to be eliminated. No one will regret the termination of its brief and inglorious career. The whole Council, however, who were prepared to thrust this constitution upon us and govern us without consent, are to be given office upon the Council of the Conjoint Corporation.

DIPLOMAS OF FELLOWSHIP.

(3) The provision that "no titles and diplomas shall be granted" is expunged. The conjoint Council takes power "to grant diplomas of Fellowship of the Corporation to members who pass such higher examinations as may be prescribed."

POWER OF APPEAL.

(4) The autocratic power of the College Council to remove a nurse's name from the Register and deprive her of membership without power of appeal will no longer be permitted. Before the removal of their names nurses will have the elementary right "to appear in person or by agent to show cause why their names should not be removed."

We congratulate the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee on having given such wide publicity to the indignation of British nurses concerning these indignities—and the Council of the College on agreeing to remove them.

THE LOSSES.

The proposed loss of professional prestige is, however, severe, and can only be appreciated by the professional founders of the British Nurses' Association, who worked, won and paid for the Royal Charter in 1893, whereby a Professional as opposed to a Popular Constitution was secured. Membership of the British Nurses' Association from its foundation has for thirty years been open only to trained nurses and medical practitioners, persons who understand the theory and practice of the science of nursing. The Supplemental Charter provides that membership is open to the laity; thus British nurses will no longer have a Chartered Professional Association of their own, but may, together with lay persons form a Corporation to be termed the Royal British College of Nursing. This loss of professional independence and prestige is a very high price to pay, and is a *quid pro quo* the founders of the Association would not concede in the past in order to placate opposition.

STATE REGISTRATION THE CRUX.

The all-important question for the profession at large still remains State Registration by Act of Parliament, and the form of legislation to be incorporated in a Nurses' Bill.

Once more for the time being the Bill drafted by the Central Committee holds the field, as presumably the College Bill is now in abeyance pending amalgamation with the R.B.N.A., when steps are to be taken to obtain an Act of Parliament, and when this Bill is drafted it will be time enough to consider its provisions, which, let us hope, may provide for the direct representation of the nursing profession on democratic and acceptable lines.

As the initiator and the first member of the British Nurses' Association, and one of those who on several occasions urged the Managers of the Nurse Training Schools to encourage the professional aspirations of their nurses, and to help them in their efforts towards sound professional organisation, we cannot fail to realise that the amalgamation of the promoters of the College and the despitefully-used R.B.N.A., is an important step toward professional unity, a desirable consummation to be effected only by conceding to the members of the nursing profession as a whole the full measure of professional responsibility which is its right.

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