

## IRISH NURSES AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

Members of the Irish Nurses' Association are to be congratulated that it is probable their long and interesting work for higher professional education and registration may bear practical fruit in the near future, as the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland have under consideration suggestions from some of the most experienced members of the Association, and unanimously supported by the Sister and Nurse members—of a scheme for more systematic instruction and the granting of Diplomas for trained Nurses, as in the case of medical students. This would be a tremendous step forward in the right direction, as such qualifications would be a very great incentive to better teaching for nurses, and an honourable recognition of their work and status—all ready for Registration when an Act is passed for this purpose by Parliament, authorising a Statutory Body to carry out such work, analogous to that of the General Medical Council. What intelligent nurses have realised during the past year, made very plain by the dangerous constitution of the College of Nursing scheme, is the danger of monopoly of disciplinary powers being assumed by any one teaching Body or College, over the whole body of nurses in the United Kingdom, and this monopoly in Ireland Irish nurses are determined to resist; and in so doing they are setting their colleagues in England and Scotland an example which sooner or later they must follow, unless they are content to be subject, without appeal, to a self-elected Council of persons who have shown a very undesirable and illiberal spirit, before they have even been approved by the Privy Council, much less by Parliament.

The Irish are out to construct their educational curriculum, and subsequent standard of State Registration on a wide and far reaching basis—as opposed to despotic rule, and have stood firm throughout the year's controversy in a manner which commands the sincere admiration and heartfelt thanks of the organised Nurses' Associations throughout the world.

The Irish Nurses' Association will have the scheme of the Irish Colleges before them at an early date, when we may hope for authenticated information for publication.

### SICK PAY FOR ARMY NURSES.

We are glad to note that Miss Kearns, the Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Insurance Society, is drawing public attention to the present unsatisfactory conditions for Army Reserve Sisters and Nurses invalided out of the Service. We have brought this question before numerous Members of Parliament, and hope to learn from the War Office without much further delay that adequate help will be forthcoming from the State for Sisters and Nurses who now can claim nothing, and during illness depend upon the pittance of 7s. 6d. a week from their Insurance Society. Such a position could not have arisen if the

Nursing Boards at the War Office had acted with greater promptitude, insistence, and sympathy towards the rank and file. They should have taken the initiative early in the war, and not assumed a diffidence towards potentates and powers in the War Office, which has, from lack of courage, produced very deplorable results. As a member of the Mansion House Committee, T.F.N.S., City and County of London, we were very unfavourably impressed with the attitude of those connected with the Advisory Council, when we brought this question of provision for nurses invalided out of the Service, forward at the beginning of the war.

## "THE MYSTERIOUS PACT."

We have received a long "apologia" from Miss Mary C. Good, purporting to be a criticism of our remarks last week concerning the "Secret Agreement" entered into between the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. and the Honble. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, who signed the "mysterious pact" in their *personal*, and not in their official capacities as Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Miss Good and her fellow signatories to the communication consider our deductions "a misrepresentation of the true position of affairs and very far from logical"!

As we propose to devote some consideration to this document we must postpone the pleasure of inserting it until next week.

Miss Good, who writes from 44, Devonshire St., W., is one of the thirteen nominees of the R.B.N.A. on the Council of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing, a title by the bye widely and quite illegally used by its promoters, as it has not yet been sanctioned by His Majesty in Council.

The signatories to the communication do not appear to realise that should the Supplemental Charter be granted the Royal British Nurses' Association ceases to exist, and not even "illogical misrepresentation" can alter this fact, but as professional self-governing co-operation appears eminently distasteful to the type of nurse of which the R.B.N.A. is now largely composed, this fact is presumably of no importance. We founders of the British Nurses' Association think otherwise, and naturally resent being deprived by its medical managers of our Royal Chartered Corporation, for which we worked and paid.

## COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The following new appointments have been made since October, 1916:—

#### HOSPITALS UNDER GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

E. A. Evans, J. Andrews, H. Edenborough, F. Byrne, L. Griffiths, A. Cordwell, T. Grant, M. Mee, Johannesburg Hospital.

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