

THE POOR-LAW UNIONS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND THE NURSING QUESTION.

The Executive Council of the Poor-Law Unions' Association will meet in London on Thursday, May 3rd. It will be observed with interest, states the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, that the Parliamentary Committee in their report, which will be presented to the meeting, deal effectively with the question of the College of Nursing. There is also brought under notice the cognate matter of "the unsuccessful negotiations on drafting a conjoint Nurses' Registration Bill which have taken place between the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd." Both of these matters, connected as they are, must be regarded as of the first importance to Guardians on the Hospital side of their administration. The Parliamentary Committee explain in their report that they "understand that the statement issued by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses has, together with a copy of the Draft Bill, been circulated among the Poor-Law Unions in England and Wales. The differences which have arisen with the College of Nursing are, therefore, well known, as well as the fact that the Central Committee intends to proceed with its own Bill, of which the fundamental principles are stated as follows, viz. :—That provision be made—(1) For a Statutory General Nursing Council to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration. (2) For direct representation of the nursing profession on the General Nursing Council, and the insertion in the Bill of the authorities empowered to nominate the Council. (3) For a three years' term of grace, after the passing of the Act, for the registration of nurses in practice—who hold a certificate of training, or produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council—without further examination. (4) For the provision at the expiration of the said term of grace that a nurse must have had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals, approved by the Council, and that such person must have passed such examination as the Council may prescribe. The Committee recognise the importance of taking strong action in regard to the subject, and are continuing to press the promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its associates for a definite statement of their intentions as regards the decisions of the Association, upon the receipt of which a further report will be made to the Council. At the same time, the Committee have further decided to recommend the Council that inquiry be made of the Central Committee for State Registration to what extent they would be prepared to adopt the decisions of this Association in the Bill which such Committee propose to introduce. Developments in these matters will be awaited by Guardians with assur-

ance that their interests are being carefully safeguarded by the Association acting through the Committee.

IRISH NURSES AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

AN IRISH NURSING BOARD.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland has unanimously adopted a scheme for the promotion of an Irish Nursing Board. It is hoped soon to announce the details of this scheme, which no doubt will specially commend itself to Irish Nurses, as it will be drawn up and entirely controlled by professional experts in Ireland, in contradistinction to the Board, lately set up in Dublin, which is a branch of the College of Nursing, Ltd., London.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

We note that the *Weekly Irish Times*, which has supported the College of Nursing, Ltd., scheme all along, as against the opinion of the Irish Nurses' Association, continues to write of the former as the Royal British College of Nursing. This is very misleading to Irish Nurses, as no such body is at present constituted. From last week's issue we gather that the programme of the College is a hodge-podge of education and benevolence, in our opinion a very undesirable mixture, and one which we very much fear will lower, not raise, the status of trained nurses. Trained nurses are not objects of charity, and would do well to protest against the so-called Irish Board appealing to the public for doles without consulting them. The action of the College Council in London in bracketing Endowment and Benevolence in an appeal being made for it by the members of the Dramatic Profession—although in the advertisement the College of Nursing is carefully excluded—is rousing much feeling and discussion in London.

We are not paupers, and the College of Nursing has no mandate to present us as such to the charitable public.

A NOMINATED BOARD FOR IRELAND.

The machinery of the College Board, Irish Section, we are told, is complete. "Offices have been secured at 23 Kildare Street, and will be opened on June 1st, and Miss Matheson, daughter of Mr. Charles L. Matheson, K.C., has been appointed Secretary. Miss Matheson is a trained nurse, and in addition she has had a distinguished career in the University of Dublin. The Chairman is Dr. George Peacocke, the Vice-Chairman Sir Andrew Horne, the Hon. Treasurer Mr. Andrew Beattie, D.L., and the Hon. Secretary Miss Reed, of Ivanhoe. These four officers, together with Miss Eddison, of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, and Miss Curtin, of the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, are the six delegates nominated by the Irish Board to act on the Council of the College in London."

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