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## EDITORIAL.

### A PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has now been in force for twelve months, and some thousands of nurses have been enrolled, as the majority of those Matrons who have been nominated on to its Council have used all their influence with the nurses under their direction to become members of the College, and we are informed that many sign the application agreeing to be bound by the regulations imposed, which do not appear on the application form, without even reading them through.

That is a matter for sincere regret, but it affects the interests of individuals. When, however, the question of legislation is under consideration the welfare of a great profession is at stake, and it becomes a matter of public duty for every member of that profession to do her utmost to secure legislation upon the right lines.

The point of primary importance in legislating for any profession is that it shall have an effective voice in framing the rules and regulations which its members will have to obey, and that has therefore been put in the forefront in relation to any Bill for Nurses' Registration, by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. The negotiations between that Committee and the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., entered into with the object of agreeing upon a Conjoint Bill, were broken off mainly because the Council of the College ultimately repudiated this principle.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has therefore prepared a Petition to the Prime Minister which all nurses are invited to sign who approve of the direct representation of the organized societies of nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland (that is the Societies which have worked and paid for the promotion of the registration movement and

converted Members of Parliament to the principle), so that it may be ready for presentation to the Prime Minister whenever a Nurses' Registration Bill is introduced into Parliament, either by the Government or otherwise. This Petition will be found on page ii of the cover in this issue, and we invite all trained nurses to read this carefully, and, if they approve of it, to fill in and sign it, and forward it forthwith to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The reason for the representation of the Nurses' Societies on the Provisional Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, authorized by Parliament, is obvious. Until a sufficient number of nurses are registered under the Act the only way in which they can be directly represented is through their self-governing societies. It is of the utmost importance that they should have power to express an opinion on the Provisional Council because, that is the Body which will be in office when the rules for the future government of the nursing profession are made.

The National self-governing Societies of Nurses associated together in the Central Committee for State Registration have for years studied the question of legislation. No more expert professional opinion as to nursing organization and legislation, or more representative of the workers, can be obtained until the registered nurses elect their own direct representatives.

A nominated Council, such as is proposed by the College of Nursing, Ltd., composed of irresponsible individuals mentioned by name in the Bill, and representative of no one, unless it be the training schools, will never satisfy those nurses who have learnt, through a campaign of thirty years, the primary importance of self-government. For this they are prepared to work, to fight, and, if need be, to wait,

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