

In the Memorandum 3 (J) power is taken "To remove from the Register the name or names of any person or persons as the Council may in its discretion think proper."

No power of appeal is provided for the registered nurse. This autocratic assumption of power places the nurse in a most defenceless position, and she practically agrees (when she signs the Agreement) to be accused, tried, judged, and condemned without the right to defend herself. This is a most dangerous provision, and is sufficient to condemn the whole constitution of the College.

For months past the supporters of the College in and out of the press, have assumed the title "Royal British College of Nursing," thus using the prefix "Royal," which has not yet been granted to it. This of course gives it a status to which at present it has no right, and is calculated to influence nurses in placing their names on the voluntary register.

THE POOR-LAW UNIONS' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

CIRCULAR FROM THE COUNCIL TO BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

The following is a copy of a circular letter which has been sent by the Council of the Poor-Law Unions' Association to the Boards of Guardians in England and Wales:—

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

PROPOSED NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by my Executive Council to advert to the subject of the establishment of the above-mentioned College, the principal objects of which were referred to in the last annual report of the Council and were discussed at the annual meeting of the Association in November last, when the following resolutions as to the provisions of the proposed Nurses' Registration Bill were passed, namely:—

(1) That the Association of Poor-Law Unions can with advantage sympathetically consider the objects of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with a view to active co-operation, subject to such proposals and conditions as may be necessary in order to safeguard Poor-Law interests in the matter and effect equalisation of the Nursing Service.

(2) That Poor-Law interests can only be properly safeguarded by representation on the Nursing Council of persons directly appointed by the Council of the Association of Poor-Law Unions.

(3) That the number of representatives of the training schools of general hospitals and of Poor-Law authorities to be elected on the proposed Nursing Council should not be less than one-third of the whole number of such Council.

(4) That one-half of the representatives of the training schools upon the proposed Council should be representatives of training schools of Poor-Law authorities.

(5) That the conditions of registration at present existing as regards the College of Nursing should be revised so as to provide for the registration of existing nurses until the expiration of three years from the passing of the proposed Nurses' Registration Bill.

(6) That any training school for nurses sanctioned by the Local Government Board should be recognised as a training school for the purposes of the College of Nursing.

Upon further consideration of Resolution 5, referred to above, the Council have, since the annual meeting, also adopted the following addenda, namely:

(a) "For a three years' term of grace after the passing of the Bill, nurses in practice who hold a certificate of training, or produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council, shall be entitled to be registered without further examination."

(b) "No practising Poor-Law nurse of five years' experience as a nurse shall be excluded from the provisional registration roll."

The above resolutions have all been duly forwarded to the Provisional Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to whose attention the very important and indispensable part played by the Poor-Law and its Nursing Service has also been urgently directed with a view to achieving co-operation in carrying out the idea of compulsory and general registration of trained nurses.

The Provisional Council of the College, which is about to be amalgamated with the Royal British Nurses' Association under the style of the Royal College of Nursing, Ltd., has through the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the College, stated that it is desired to do everything possible to meet the wishes of this Association, and that they feel it is only by agreement between the bodies representing the nursing profession that there is any hope for the passing of the Nurses Registration Bill through Parliament.

At the same time my Council have observed with surprise that the Provisional Council which is constituted wholly of persons unrepresentative of the Poor-Law, has quite recently intimated that there is no possibility of finding places on the Council for representatives of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, Incorporated, in spite of previous promises to the contrary, nor has any invitation been extended to my Council to appoint representatives of this Association on such provisional Council.

My Council find it exceedingly difficult to understand the attitude which is being adopted by the Provisional Council having regard to the above-mentioned admissions made on behalf of that body by the Hon. Arthur Stanley; but they are unanimously of opinion that the interests of the Poor-Law require active co-operation on the part of Boards of Guardians in combating any scheme which challenges the right of representation to the persons most deeply concerned.

My Council has therefore passed the following

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