

### A BRITISH NURSES' UNION.

The "passing of the Royal Charter" has given a few earnest nurses furiously to think, and the question which they have under consideration is—if the Supplemental Charter is granted forming a Royal British College of Nursing, and the Royal British Nurses' Association ceases to exist, in what form will the Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom reorganise so that it will have power of co-operation and free expression of opinion. It has been decided to hold a meeting at an early date to discuss this important matter.

The National Council of Trained Nurses is a consultative body which affiliates Leagues and Societies of Nurses together, and links them up with the International Council of Nurses, but its Constitution is not calculated to include all the practical activities specially applicable to a National Union. On the other hand, the National Union of Trained Nurses is doing very practical work for the nursing profession on sound democratic and self-governing lines, and would appear to be already the nucleus of what may become a really forceful and popular Organisation, as it is framed on the same lines as the British Medical Association, and the Teachers' Union. Power of expression the trained nurses of this country must have, and the "thirty years war" has taught us what pitfalls to avoid in future. Freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, and freedom of action, must be the aims of British nurses; a triune of human rights to secure which our Empire has elected to pour out its glorious blood and marvellous treasure in a furore of War.

"Per Ardua ad Astra," the motto of the N.U.T.N., has a happy aspiring sound, and its claim that it is "A Union to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession" is just what should appeal to us all, and we believe it will.

Several of the matrons and nurses who helped to found the British Nurses' Association at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, on that fateful 7th of December, 1887, are still very much alive. We hope that they will one and all attend the meeting it is proposed to convene. They are still amongst those whose professional ideals are of the highest, and whose courage is undaunted, and who can inspire a younger generation with that keen sense of professional responsibility for which their generation was so justly renowned, and without which any attempt to organize a profession is doomed to failure.

### PROGRESS UNDER THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

Writing of the results of the sixth examination of nurses for license and certificate to practise as a "registered nurse" in California, Miss Anna C. Jamme says:—"The results of this examination have shown a higher percentage in general average than any previous examination, and the percentage of failures is less than in the two last examinations. . . . This is most reassuring to those concerned in the work going on in our schools, and especially to superintendents and instructors, those working devotedly in the interest of their school and their students." The Examination and Registration Boards in the United States are almost entirely composed of independent Superintendents and nurses of standing, nominated by the State Nurses' Associations, and not of those under the control of Hospital Boards. This principle of absolute fairness to graduate nurses is embodied in nearly every Nurses' Registration Act from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It will take this reactionary country, so far as working nurses are concerned, another fifty years before they are granted such a degree of emancipation, and, more's the pity, it is their own apathy which is to blame for the contempt and autocracy with which they are treated.

Whilst British Nurses are inviting lay control through their Royal Charter, the whole American nursing world is busy organizing preparatory to the grant of a National Charter for the American Nurses' Association, which is, of course, entirely composed of graduate nurses. In the liberal West, laymen and doctors would no more consider themselves qualified to be members of a professional Nurses' National Association than they would admit graduate nurses as members of medical organizations. To demand to control the American Nurses' Association would make them ridiculous and be laughed out of court. Miss Delano, Miss Goodrich, Miss Deans, and Miss Sly, together with the members of the State Associations, are working unceasingly for a favourable consideration of the Bill for the National Charter, which the District Committee of the House of Representatives will have under consideration at an early date. Heartily we wish all success.

Miss Julia Hurlston is resigning the position of Matron to Hanover Park V.A.D. Hospital, Camberwell, and will at an early date take part in the management of a Nursing Home in London.

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