

the necessity of acknowledging the training schools recognised by the Local Government Board, and said that they owed a debt of gratitude to the President of the Poor Law Officers' Association for taking action when Poor Law Nurses were threatened with injustice by the College Council. The following resolution, which seventy nurses in the area had written to support was considered: "That this meeting strongly protests against the proposed Rules of the College of Nursing fixing the conditions of training for Poor Law Nurses and the lengthy period such conditions are made to apply, and urges the Association to take immediate steps to secure a modification of such rules."

Eventually, on the proposition of Mrs. Ritchie, seconded by Miss Kershaw, it was decided to ask the Poor Law Officers' Association to take the matter up and endeavour to secure recognition for nurses who had received an efficient training, although the condition of such training was not in conformity with the suggested rules of the College of Nursing.

LORD KNUTSFORD AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The following Notice has been sent to nurses trained at the London Hospital, by Lord Knutsford, the Chairman of the Hospital:—

London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E.

NOTICE TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL NURSING STAFF.

I have decided not to join the College of Nursing because I feel strongly that several of the objects set out in this Memorandum of Association, to carry out which the College is established, would be harmful to Nursing, and that is why the London Hospital has opposed these same objects for so long and with success.

One of these objects is to promote the *Registration of Nurses*.

Any Nurse who cares to read the arguments against the State Registration of Nurses can, by applying to Matron's Office, get a copy of a short pamphlet setting out these arguments.

It is not only that the London Hospital would have a great deal to lose by placing its first class Nurses on any State Register, thus sinking any distinction their training may have given them, by making them one and the same with all sorts of Nurses trained under inferior conditions. It is not only this, but I believe State Registration of Nurses would do harm to the best Nurses of all Schools, and would be no protection to the public, nor to Nurses themselves.

Another object of the College is "to promote a uniform curriculum of training for Nurses."

If we at the "London" were to be compelled by being members of the College to alter our system of training to that of other Hospitals, we should no longer be able to turn out the type of nurse we have been so proud of.

We are not afraid of its being known that there are "College Nurses" and "London Hospital" Nurses, and the public can choose between them.

Our system of training, the result of Miss Lückes' unrivalled experience, has been proved to be successful in turning out the very best Nurses.

The same results cannot be obtained by different machinery.

Each Hospital should be allowed to train its Nurses as it finds it can best do so, and should not be interfered with in this by people who do not know its system from inside, and will not judge it by its results.

It does not seem to me to be likely to improve the training of Nurses to have one time, one system, one examination, applicable to all, with no consideration given to the very different circumstances, opportunities and organisation existing at each Hospital.

If an universal curriculum had been in existence in the past we should have had no progress. It would have stereotyped and made permanent what was considered possible at the moment when the curriculum was settled—and "possible" be it remembered not to the best and most advanced hospitals, but possible to the majority. All Hospitals would thereby be levelled down instead of up.

At any rate, I object to putting our Training School—the largest and the most successful in England—under the control of others, whose theories of training formed at some smaller school, would be fatal to the production of the best type of Nurses. Moreover, the adoption of these theories, which would be compulsory on those who join the College, might well introduce many complications into the practical management of those Hospitals whose methods of training were well adapted to their own particular circumstances.

It would be impossible for the London Hospital to continue producing either the quantity or quality of nurses it has done for so many years, if we are to be regulated in any way by an outside Body, whose theories might be constantly changing and which were not based upon the experience of dealing with large numbers under one roof.

To maintain our standard of Nurses, which has met with universal praise wherever they have nursed, is well worth doing. To drag this training down to a level, which may be inevitable elsewhere, would be a disaster.

Any London Hospital Nurse who wishes to join the College is, of course, at liberty to do so. Each Nurse must judge for herself.

November, 1916.

KNUTSFORD.

There is no new anti-registration argument advanced by Lord Knutsford in his latest "Notice" to London Hospital Nurses. It strikes one as most anomalous that the laity are qualified at will to join a College of Nursing, whilst members of the Nursing Profession must produce evidence of character, training and skill before they are eligible to do so!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)