

## THE PASSING OF THE R.B.N.A.

In reply to questions from old members of the Association, as to our opinion on the amalgamation of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, we need not refute the false statements concerning us trumpeted forth by the anti-registration press—which has "ratted" so unblushingly on the State Registration of Nurses question. We have always ignored the attacks of these commercial publications. In reply to old friends, many of whom helped us to found the Association, and who worked so hard for its Royal Charter, we do not think that any body of persons could have made less use of the powers which it confers than the Hon. Medical Officers who have controlled the destinies of the Nurses' Association for a quarter of a century. The Association is practically moribund—and has declined so materially in membership and influence since the Bye-laws were altered in 1898 (to eject the ex-officio matrons from power) that we think the Royal British College of Nursing may make more use of it than the clique of medical men who now hold it in bond. That, of course, remains to be seen. The fact remains that the nurses are not permitted to use their own Charter for their own benefit, and until they have sufficient courage and energy to do so, it does not greatly matter who plays with it. We have complete faith in the ultimate triumph of right over might.

What is of real importance to the future of Nursing is the Constitution of the Governing Body set up in an Act of Parliament for the organization of the Nursing Profession, and whether or no existing nurses are to be conceded the right of direct representation on the Provisional Council set up under the Act to define the Rules and Regulations they have to obey. If such right is denied to them they intend to refuse to be governed without consent, and further coercion will be met by revolt. The Association has been rendered null and void so far as real influence is concerned, by an aggrieved proletariat, and as Parliament will never make State Registration of Nurses compulsory, the same resistance can be exercised in opposing any unjust system of control which hospital committees and their supporters may attempt to force upon the Nursing Profession through an unprofessional Governing Board. Medical control of the Nurses' Association has been a miserable failure, and lay control of a Nurses' Registration Act will also spell *débâcle*.

## WHAT IRISH NURSES WANT TO KNOW IF THE ROYAL BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSING IS FOUNDED.

At the meetings held in Dublin on January 27th last, to discuss the College of Nursing, Limited, several very important questions were addressed by those present to Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Rundle. To some of the questions no sufficient reply was given, and it was agreed that they should be referred to headquarters for a reply through the press. The following questions have been sent to us as those which, in the opinion of Irish Nurses, require a clear and definite answer:—

As we go to press we have received replies to questions asked in Dublin from the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd.; they are published in another column. We do not consider that the replies are explicit, and reference to several of the most important points is omitted. We do not think they will satisfy the intelligent women who have promoted and financed the Registration movement. We shall therefore reply to the questions sent to us next week.

### QUESTIONS.

1. Where Ireland comes in?
2. Why were none of the Nurses' Associations and Leagues throughout the United Kingdom, which had been working for the organisation of the Nursing Profession through State Registration, consulted or invited to elect representatives on to the Council of the College of Nursing, Limited?
3. Has the Council power to elect an unlimited number of the laity as members of the Corporation?
4. Why are Irish Nurses only permitted six seats on the Council out of 45, and why are the majority of votes controlled by the Matrons of large London and English County Hospitals?
5. Why are other branches of women's work connected with hospitals other than nursing, to be controlled by a Nursing College?
6. Why are all Hon. Officers of the Nursing College men, and why are Deputations on Nursing matters received by these gentlemen with no Matron or Nurse present?
7. How can an Institution be democratic which is controlled by a Royal President and a nominated Council, and which has ignored the trained nurses' organisations?
8. What is the nature of the Secret Agreement between the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing? Why should not nurses know what these pledges are, so that they can express an opinion on them?
9. Does the College intend to promote a Bill providing for an independent General Nursing Council to carry out the Nurses' Registration Act, or not?
10. When State Registration is accomplished, may a nurse be a member of the College or not as she chooses?

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