

nurses should have their strong national Association, as their colleagues in other countries have, through which to express freely, and without economic pressure, their relation to the body politic, and for their mutual help and protection and for the advancement in every way of their professional work.

The trained nurses in this Kingdom are the only body of women workers who possess a Royal Charter. It was won for them by the pioneers of nursing reform a quarter of a century ago, and gives them ample powers for the organization of their profession. The immediate question is—Do the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association sufficiently realize their responsibility to the public and to their profession to utilize the powers conferred upon them through their Royal Charter? If they do they will cling to it tenaciously; if they do not, by merging themselves in any other body the Association, as such, will cease to exist.

### HISTORIC DOCUMENTS.

So many historic documents concerning the Organization of the Nursing Profession have been placed on record through the medium of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that we have decided to republish this week the Agreement for the Amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the Royal British Nurses' Association, the draft Supplemental Charter, and proposed new Bye-laws (which the Privy Council has referred back to the promoters), printed in the January, 1916, issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, the official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

We also publish, for the benefit of the Nursing Profession at large, the Humble Petition to the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council, of the Executive Committee and Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, showing cause why the proposed Supplemental Charter and new Bye-laws, by providing for the admission of unprofessional persons as members, would destroy the whole professional nature of the Nurses' Association "for mutual counsel, comfort, and support," and convert it into a Collegiate and Educational Corporation, with excessively autocratic disciplinary powers over the whole Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom.

### AGREEMENT: PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER AND BYE-LAWS.

THIS AGREEMENT made the 21st day of December, One thousand nine hundred and sixteen, BETWEEN THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION (hereinafter called "the Association") of the one part and the COLLEGE OF NURSING LIMITED whose registered office is situate at Number 83 Pall Mall London (hereinafter called "the College") of the other part WHEREAS the Association are a body incorporated by Royal Charter dated the sixth day of June One thousand eight hundred and ninety-three for the purpose of the improvement of the profession of nurses and, under their Charter, have power to affiliate to themselves or amalgamate with themselves any body of persons, corporate or incorporate, formed for all or any of the purposes for which the Association themselves are formed or for any purpose analogous or corresponding thereto and the affairs of the Association are managed under bye-laws approved by the Privy Council on the tenth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight AND WHEREAS the College are a Company with limited liability incorporated under the Companies Acts 1908 and 1913, for the purpose (inter alia) of promoting the better education and training of nurses AND WHEREAS with a view to the better promoting of the interests of nurses it has been arranged that provided the necessary amendment of the said Charter for that purpose can be obtained the Association shall amalgamate with themselves the College and that the title of the Association shall be altered to the Royal British College of Nursing (hereinafter referred to as "the Corporation") Now the parties hereto DO HEREBY MUTUALLY COVENANT AND AGREE as follows:

1. The Association shall forthwith take such steps as may be necessary to enable them to apply for and will use their best endeavours to obtain (either by way of amendment of their said Charter or by the grant of a Supplemental Charter) the alterations in the terms of their said Charter which are set out in the draft Supplemental Charter which has been approved by the parties hereto and which, for identification is marked with the letter "A" and has been signed by or on behalf of the parties hereto subject to such further alteration (if any) as may be agreed between the parties hereto.

2. The Association will, simultaneously with the application to be made by them with regard to the alteration of the Charter under the provisions of Clause 1, herein take such steps as may be necessary to annul the existing bye-laws of the tenth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight and will use their best endeavours to make and obtain the approval of His Majesty's Privy Council to the new bye-laws, set out in the draft which has been approved by the parties hereto and which for identification is marked with

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