

4. Your Petitioners would further submit that the Association has already power, under the present Charter, to amalgamate, if it pleases, with the College of Nursing, Limited; and that it is, therefore, obvious that no change of its name nor the grant of any Supplemental Charter to the Association would be requisite—if amalgamation were all that was desired.

5. In the Draft Supplemental Charter it is proposed that the purposes of the Corporation should be extended (e) "To promote legislation to provide for the State recognition of and protection of the Official Register" of the Corporation. Your Petitioners would point out that this suggests that a most unfair monopoly should be given to the Official Register of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing over those of any other Collegiate Bodies which may be hereafter established for the teaching of nursing elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Your Petitioners submit that the legal registration of, and the disciplinary control over, the whole nursing profession in the United Kingdom should not be entrusted to a small self-appointed Council of a College of Nursing; but, according to precedent, in the case of other professions, should be carried out by an independent Governing Body established by Act of Parliament.

The House of Lords in 1908 passed a Bill for the Registration of Nurses by such a State-appointed Body, and a Select Committee of the House of Commons reported to Parliament in 1905 that they were unanimously agreed "that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State."

Moreover, Your Petitioners desire to point out that, under the original Charter, the Royal British Nurses' Association was empowered to compile and publish a list of thoroughly trained nurses; that this work has been most inefficiently conducted, and that the List has never been published since 1909, although, since then, some hundreds of nurses have applied and paid one guinea each for the insertion, and publication, of their names on such a List.

Your Petitioners submit that as the Royal British Nurses' Association has failed to carry out this important power granted to the Corporation under the original Charter, it should not be entrusted with increased responsibility in this connection, and therefore should not be granted the monopoly of State recognition of and protection of its Official Register.

6. In the Draft Supplemental Charter it is proposed that the provisions for the expulsion of members hitherto in force in the Royal

British Nurses' Association be rescinded, and that full power to carry out such expulsion of members be given to the Council of the new Corporation. As such expulsion would mean the professional ruin of the nurse, and her inability to continue to earn her livelihood in her calling, Your Petitioners submit that this matter is one of supreme importance to every nurse member of the Association from a professional point of view, and that it would be most inequitable to deprive the nurses of the safeguards provided for them in this matter in the existing Charter and Bye-Laws.

7. Whereas it has been publicly stated that certain new Bye-Laws will be submitted by the said Association for the approval of the Privy Council, and it is not known whether the said Bye-Laws will be so submitted immediately or not—Your Petitioners very earnestly petition that the approval of the Privy Council may be refused to the said new Bye-Laws for the following, amongst other, reasons.

8. Hitherto, as in all professional Associations, membership has been justly and naturally restricted to persons possessing definite professional qualifications. The suggested new Bye-Law 4 gives power for the election to membership of any persons at the sole will of the Council and without any restriction to the above qualifications; and this opens the door at once to the complete destruction of the Association as a professional body. Indeed, on the suggested first Council, a Barrister and a Member of Parliament are nominated.

Your Petitioners submit that it is essential, therefore, to the safeguarding of the professional character of this Association—and on the strength of which the original Charter was granted—that the existing Bye-Laws defining the qualifications for membership should be maintained in force by the Privy Council.

9. On the question of finance—at present every member has to pay a Life or an Annual Subscription to the Association; and its financial condition, nevertheless, leaves much to be desired. The new Bye-Laws provide that nurses are to pay one guinea on their names being entered on the Register. Apparently, they are to pay no more, and no one else is to pay anything. From wide and long experience of professional Associations, Your Petitioners submit that this want of provision of funds to cover the cost of administration proves the most unbusinesslike character of the suggested scheme and of the new Bye-Laws. In this connection, Your Petitioners may appropriately refer to the finances of the Central Midwives' Board.

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