

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.**  
**BETWEEN THE SOLICITORS OF THE CORPORATION AND THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.**

THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL,  
 PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE,

June 13th, 1917.

MESSRS. PONTIFEX, PITT & Co.,  
 16, ST. ANDREW STREET,  
 HOLBORN CIRCUS, E.C. 4.

GENTLEMEN,—Referring to your letter of the 6th inst., enclosing the observations of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association on certain objections taken by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-laws which the Association have submitted for the approval of His Majesty in Council, I am directed by the Lords of the Council to state that, having given the said objections and observations their careful consideration, their Lordships are of opinion that the draft Supplemental Charter and the Bye-laws ought to be amended in certain particulars.

1. As regards the non-professional members it would be well to limit their number as proposed by the Council.

2. As regards appeals by members of the Association who are expelled or by nurses who are struck off the roll, I am to suggest that the Privy Council would not be a suitable body to deal with such matters. If, however, the rights of any person expelled or removed from the roll were as carefully safeguarded as they now are by the provisions of Bye-law 26 of the *existing* Bye-laws of the Association, it would appear to be unnecessary to make provision for appeals.

In this connection I am to point out that the presence of different rules for expulsion in the case of members of the Corporation and of Nurses on the Roll, introduces some unnecessary complications and if it were provided that, as entry on the Roll of Nurses, *ipso facto*, constitutes membership of the Association, so, conversely, expulsion from membership should, *ipso facto*, operate as a removal from the Roll one rule would be sufficient so that the matter might be dealt with by deleting the proposed Bye-law 26, and substituting for the present article of the Supplemental Charter headed "Expulsion of Members," a fresh article modelled closely on the *existing* Bye-law 26 of the Association with the omission of the last clause relating to appeals.

3. It would be expedient to increase the quorum of the Council.

4. The omission of the words "not less than" to "Council" from Bye-law 8 is approved.

5. With a view to meeting the objection that the application of the Association is an attempt to forestall the action of Parliament with regard to the establishment of an Official Register of Nurses, it would be well to call the "Register" to be set up by the Association throughout a "Roll." The first two lines of (E) on p. 7 of the Draft Charter

might then run: "To promote legislation to provide for the State recognition and protection of an Official Register."

6. In conclusion I am to suggest that it would be convenient if the Articles of the Supplemental Charter were numbered consecutively.

I am accordingly to request that you will be good enough to move the Council to take these matters into their consideration with a view to formulating the necessary amendments on the above-mentioned points.

The alterations referred to in your letter under reply have been noted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) ALMERIC FITZROY

16, ST. ANDREW STREET,  
 HOLBORN CIRCUS, E.C. 4;  
 July 30th, 1917.

Ref. 119,649.

*The Royal British Nurses' Association.*

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 13th June, we have to state that the subject matter thereof has had the careful consideration of the Council of the Association, and we are instructed to forward you a print of the proposed Supplemental Charter showing in red ink the alterations which the Association would propose should be made in order to meet the suggestion contained in your letter and the views expressed in the subsequent interviews which have been held.

We are requested to state that the Council have given special consideration to Paragraph 5 of your letter dealing with Clauses "D and E" on page 7 of the Draft Charter. The Council are of opinion that the proposed alteration of these clauses, if made, will annul one of the main objects for which the Supplemental Charter is desired, as it was hoped that the Amalgamated Official Registers compiled and maintained by the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, which would become the Official Register of the Royal British College of Nursing when incorporated, would be of such character that Parliament might be prepared to adopt it as the Official Register, and to constitute the Royal British College of Nursing with additional representation on behalf of the nursing profession and the public, as the Registration Authority.

The Council of the College of Nursing has stated that it has drafted a Nurses' Registration Bill which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing shall be the first Register under the Act, and the College has given its undertaking that all nurses on the College Register will, automatically and without further fee, be placed upon the State Register when the Nurses' Registration Bill is passed, and the Council are informed that large numbers of nurses have joined the College relying on this undertaking.

The Council of the Association, therefore, feel that they would be acting unfairly towards the

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