

College if they were to agree to an alteration in a clause purposely inserted in order that definite powers might be obtained for the fulfilment of this promise. Moreover, although the Council of this Association have never given any promise to nurses applying for Registration that their names would be placed on the State Register, it has been stated to the members that in the Supplemental Charter powers would be sought for promoting the Official Register as the State one. The Council, therefore, feel that they cannot agree honourably to these proposed alterations in Paragraph 2 (D and E) as to do so would seriously affect the ability of the conjoint body to keep the pledges that have been given.

The Association consider that as regards State Registration, the position of their members would be in no way benefited by the Supplemental Charter if Clauses "D and E" were to be amended as suggested, as the members of the Association are at the present time in exactly the same position as they would be if a Supplemental Charter containing the proposed amendments were to be granted.

We are asked by the Council to inquire whether the objections of the Local Government Board would be met by Paragraph (E) of Clause 2 being amended by the substitution of the words "the Register of the Corporation" in the place of the words "the Official Register." This amendment has not been approved by the Council, but if it were approved, we think that it might prove to be a satisfactory solution of the question.

We are also asked to state that the substituted Clause 26 has not yet been considered by the Council, but we shall be glad to know if it will, if adopted, meet the views of your Council.

We have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Obedient Servants,  
(Signed) PONTIFEX, PITT & Co.

The Clerk of the Privy Council,  
Privy Council Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.

[COPY.]

THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,  
PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.;

August 1st, 1917.

GENTLEMEN,—Referring to your letter of 30th ultimo, on the subject of a proposed Supplemental Charter for the Royal British Nurses' Association, I am directed by the Lords of the Council to state that there are serious objections to the suggested wording of Paragraphs D and E of Clause 2. The difficulty arises in connection with the term "official." In the Draft Supplemental Charter the use of the term may appear natural, as applied to the Register of Nurses which is common to the two bodies proposed to be amalgamated, but in the language which the Royal Charter puts in the King's mouth, the term can only suggest a State Register,

and its use would, to that extent, anticipate the judgment of Parliament and prejudice the question of an official register of nurses, which is precisely what the Local Government Board have deprecated.

If the word "official" were deleted from Clause D the suggestion to substitute "The Register of the Corporation" for "the official Register" in Paragraph E would receive further consideration. An alternative might be to make Clause E run "an official Register based on the Register of the Corporation."

As regards the undertaking given by the College of Nursing to nurses, I am to point out that, as a matter of fact, such an undertaking cannot be made effectual by means of a Charter, but only by Act of Parliament; and that the position of nurses in respect of the promises made to them is in no sense affected by the alterations which it is sought to introduce. The Amalgamated Bodies would, at the same time, be free to take what steps they thought fit for the purpose of promoting the recognition of their joint register as the official State Register.

As regards the remaining amendments shown in red ink, they appear to be in order. It is presumed that the additional amendments in Paragraphs A, B, D, E, and G of Clause 2 and in Bye-law 18 (which are understood to have been accepted by the Promoters) will be incorporated in any reprint of the Draft Supplemental Charter.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
(Signed) ALMERIC FITZROY.

As we have previously reported, a Resolution affirming that "it would not be to the interest of the Corporation to accept the alterations suggested" was passed at the Special Meeting of the Council of the R.B.N.A. on September 27th.

#### APPLICATION FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER WITHDRAWN.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has received the following communication from the Clerk of the Council:—

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.  
November 5th, 1917.

MADAM,—Referring to your letter of the 21st March last, on the subject of the Petition of the Royal British Nurses' Association for the grant of a Supplemental Charter, I am directed by the Lords of the Council to state that the Petitioners have decided not to proceed with their application.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient Servant,  
ALMERIC FITZROY.

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