

appeal for funds made by the British Women's Hospital on its behalf has met with the widest sympathetic reception by the Press and public, the advantage to the College of amalgamation becomes less obvious. If, however, the terms of our agreement with your Association are fulfilled the College is prepared to take the further steps necessary to give effect to the amalgamation.

Should this not come about, then I am instructed to ask your Council to refrain from incurring further expenditure, which, as you will no doubt remember, the College has to find, and although the agreement between us cannot be legally terminated until next December, to regard negotiations as practically at an end.

In conclusion, my Council instructs me to say how sincerely it regrets that its hopes of union with your Association should have been frustrated, and that it should not have the help it anticipated from the members of your Association, whom it hoped to welcome on the Council of the Royal British College of Nursing, in prosecuting the important tasks which have already been delayed in the hopes of a joint agreement and professional unity.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. S. RUNDLE,
Secretary.

The Royal British Nurses' Association,
10, Orchard Street,
Portman Square, W. 1.
November 12th, 1917.

The Secretary, The College of Nursing, Ltd.,
6, Vere Street, W. 1.

DEAR MADAM,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter which has been carefully considered by my Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee desire to state most emphatically that they do not for one moment admit that the proceedings with the Privy Council have been conducted in a dilatory manner. Any difficulties and delays which have arisen have been unavoidable so far as the Association is concerned, a statement which the Council will be prepared to prove at the proper time. I am to add that, although the powers granted under the Charter possessed by the Association are wide and far-reaching, the Supplemental Charter was admittedly intended to extend those powers. My Council, however, are advised that the alterations in the Supplemental Charter modify the document in such a substantial sense that practically no further powers are granted beyond those already possessed under the original Charter except the power to change the name of the Association.

With reference to your remark, "If, however, the terms of our agreement with your Association are fulfilled, the College is prepared to take the further steps necessary to give effect to the amalgamation," my Committee repudiate emphatically the unworthy insinuation that this Corporation has not fulfilled its part of the agreement.

Your notice to my Council "to refrain from

incurring further expenditure" is unnecessary and misleading to those who are unaware of the circumstance that no further expense can be incurred in connection with the Supplemental Charter, seeing that the Lords of the Council have declined to grant the Supplemental Charter as agreed upon.

The proposal for the amalgamation of the College with the Royal British Nurses' Association (not the amalgamation of the Royal British Nurses' Association with the College as stated in your letter) whereby the College would gain the privilege and prestige of possessing a Royal Charter, was cordially welcomed by our members. The single object of the Association was to benefit the profession by bringing about a closer union of the nursing world and we stipulated for no special privileges for our members in return for what we were to share freely with the members of your Association. It is a matter for regret that circumstances over which this Association had no control have prevented the completion of the amalgamation.

With reference to your letter of the 9th inst., I enclose herewith the copy of a letter conveying to the Lords of the Council the decision of the Council of this Corporation with regard to the Supplemental Charter, and also a copy of the reply received from them.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary.

INFELICITOUS AND ILLOGICAL.

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, November 23rd, criticises, as infelicitous and illogical, the letter signed by Miss Rundle, Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., sent to the R.B.N.A. in the following paragraph:—

"A CHARACTERISTIC WAY WITH THE COLLEGE.
"This letter, it will be agreed, is as infelicitous in its terms as many of the other pronouncements which have characterised the proposals of the College Council. It is also illogical. It states a preference for 'an elective Council,' and almost immediately proceeds to state that the present Council 'hoped to welcome on the Council of the College members of your Association.' If the College Council were appointed by election it is clear that this 'hope' might not have come to fruition. As to the 'alterations suggested by the Privy Council,' the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association surely are the better judges of whether they do or do not 'modify that document in any substantial sense.' The Nurses' Association held that they do, and few persons of discrimination will disagree with them. It is a strange comment, too, on the action and intention of the Privy Council to declare that their alterations are not substantial, the more so as it is evident that the Privy Council gave them full consideration and relied upon their adoption before a Supple-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)