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EDITORIAL.

A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

It is with pleasure we announce that, on the initiative of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and with the approval of Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, President of the Corporation, conferences have taken place between members of that Committee and delegates of the Organized Societies of Nurses, and that, as a result, a scheme has been formulated under which they will be invited to form a Consultative Committee, and to affiliate with the Association, while retaining their own autonomy.

The proposed Consultative Committee should be an exceedingly expert body, which will consider and advise on questions intimately affecting the nursing profession, and should also prove instrumental in promoting the harmonious co-operation of the Chartered Corporation with organized classes of nurses, and in consolidating and strengthening the various sections of independent practising nurses.

The officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association are to be congratulated on their endeavour, under the powers conferred upon it by its Royal Charter, to give effect to the aspirations of nurses for high ethical standards, and freedom of expression and action, without which no human work can attain the highest level.

It is the nurses' organizations which have created and inspired every demand for higher development for the honour of the nursing profession, and for the benefit of the public for whom it exists; aspirations which have, for years, met with determined opposition upon the part of those from whom nurses should have received sympathy and support, but which has only strengthened

their moral fibre in their demand for legal status, and the protection of the sick.

These organizations have convinced both Houses of Parliament of the need for registration by the State, and they intend to protect the principles which are the basis of satisfactory legislation, and which must be incorporated in any Nurses' Registration Bill which secures their approval.

These cardinal principles have been clearly defined by the Royal British Nurses' Association, and are (1) An independent Central Council responsible for the Register of Trained Nurses. (2) A uniform curriculum. (3) A minimum standard of three years' training. (4) A one portal examination, and (5) Direct and adequate representation of the nurses themselves on any Governing Body set up by Parliament.

The banner thus raised aloft, under the Royal Charter, forms a rallying point for all nurses who desire to exercise the right to make the professional laws they are required to obey, and to define the ethical standards to which they are prepared to conform, and the principles inscribed upon it are those for which they intend to stand firmly together.

We therefore commend to trained nurses the invitation of the Royal British Nurses' Association to place their names on its Register, which was first issued in 1891, and so to support the Nurses' Registration Bill, which, as a constituent part of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, it has helped to draft.

The promotion of State Registration on a just and representative basis is the great work in which every nurse should bear her part, and under the banner of the R.B.N.A. nurses will realize, with gratitude, the value of the Charter which has been preserved for their benefit, largely by the wisdom of H.R.H. Princess Christian, President of the Association, and her clear-sighted advisers.

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