

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The April number of the *Nurses' Journal*, the organ of the R.B.N.A., contains an excellent Editorial, which does not mince matters on the duty of every member at this crisis of professional affairs. If a just Bill is to become law, each member is told that she should seriously consider in what ways she can help towards the success of just Registration. Educate the public on the question; get the ear of the Members of the Government, and enlist their support for the Bill; help to finance the movement. "Hitherto," says the *Nurses' Journal*, "one of the greatest hindrances towards success for the measure has been the indifference of the nurses as regards their own responsibilities in connection with the effort to secure State Registration, but there is quite unmistakable evidence that the present controversy has aroused large numbers of members to take a greater interest in matters which vitally concern their own future."

Anyway, the members have saved their Royal Charter, and must make good use of it

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A Special Meeting of the General Council was held on March 12th to consider certain proposals drafted as a result of conferences held between members of the Executive Committee and delegates of the organised societies of nurses. A report was received from the Executive Committee in which the proposals were incorporated along with a recommendation from that Committee that they should be adopted by the Council. After certain amendments had been made, these proposals were received, adopted, and entered on the minutes of the General Council, as follows:—

1. That, on the invitation of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a Consultative Committee be formed, composed of representatives of the various organised societies of nurses.
2. That organised societies of nurses be invited to affiliate themselves with the Royal British Nurses' Association.
3. That each affiliated society may nominate one representative for election to the Council of the Corporation, such representative being a member of the Corporation. (See Bye-law XV.)
4. That affiliated societies shall pay an affiliation fee of two guineas annually.
5. That there shall be a period of grace during which nurses, whose qualifications meet the Regulations of the Corporation, may have their names placed on the Register of the Corporation for a fee of five shillings.
6. That the period of grace be one year, with power to extend the period if the Council deem it advisable.
7. That a leaflet shall be drawn up urging nurses to place their names on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and that the representatives of the various organised societies of nurses, represented at the Conference, be requested to support this by appending their signatures.

LEAGUE NEWS.

The *Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League Journal* notes the many changes which have taken place during the past year at the Kingston Infirmary, and indeed, in these sad days, we look for little but change.

It is stated editorially that "many nurses are still asking for information as to the aims of the Society for State Registration and of the College of Nursing. Lengthy articles have been written, putting forward the objects of each of these Societies, but many nurses, in the rough and tumble of their arduous work, appear to have little time to study the matter sufficiently to enable them to make a decision."

A brief synopsis of the aims promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the objects for which the College of Nursing, Ltd., was founded is then given, and the conclusion arrived at is that the two Societies appear to be working for the same thing, viz., "the organisation of the Nursing profession."

May we go a step further? The question which is vital to the Nursing Profession is not "what?" but "how?"

Thus the College has now adopted State instead of Voluntary Registration, and so far has come into line with the Organised Societies of trained Nurses in the United Kingdom, and the British Medical Association, which have worked devotedly for State organization for the past 20 years. But compare the Bills drafted by the Central Committee and the College, and there should be no hesitation upon the part of any thoughtful nurse which "aims" she should support. The Central Committee's Bill provides in black and white (1) for the election of direct representatives of the Nurses themselves on the Nursing Council which will frame the rules they have to obey. The College Bill has declined to give the nurses *direct representation*. It provides for a *nominated* Nursing Council, on which there is no security that a nurse will have a seat. Indeed the whole Council may be employers, or unprofessional persons, who have no right whatever to dominate a profession of working women.

(2) The Central Committee's Bill inserts in black and white that there shall be a three years' term of training, a defined curriculum, and a Central Examination for all nurses before registration. Not one of these vital principles are safeguarded in the College Bill. Under its provisions a clean sheet is demanded, on which none of these advantages need be inscribed—if the *nominated Council* so decrees—after the Bill is passed. The Central Committee's Bill defines the constitution of an *independent* Permanent Governing Body after the term of grace, but the College Bill attempts to monopolise entire power over the whole profession through the College of Nursing, and to grasp absolute educational, disciplinary, and economic control, the latter

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