

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A representative deputation of members of the National Union of Trained Nurses was received by Sir George Newman at the Board of Education, on May 4th, in order that they might lay before him their views on the position of the trained nurse in the proposed Nursery Schools.

The following resolutions were amongst those passed at the Council Meeting:—

“The Council of the National Union of Trained Nurses protests against the methods by which the British Women’s Committee is raising a Fund for providing Annuities for Nurses, for the following reasons:—

1. It objects, as being inconsistent with the dignity of the profession, that appeals for charity should be made by means of advertisements in the press and by posters placarding the streets.

2. It maintains that such a Benevolent Fund should not be coupled with an endowment fund, especially for an unrepresentative body such as the College of Nursing, which has as yet no established claim to confidence.

3. It urges most strongly that the British Women’s Hospital Committee, whose feelings of sympathy for the nursing profession it fully appreciates, should place the management of the Nation’s Fund in the hands of a really national and representative body.

“For this purpose the Council of the National Union of Trained Nurses suggests that a joint committee should be formed of the existing Benevolent Funds, such as:—

- The Trained Nurses’ Annuity Fund.
- The Queen’s Nurses’ Benevolent Fund.
- The Royal British Nurses’ Association Benevolent Fund.
- The Edith Cavell Homes.
- The Junius Morgan Benevolent Fund.
- And any other that may appear suitable.”

It was also agreed:—

“That the Council of the National Union of Trained Nurses learns with pleasure that Clause V of the contract which candidates for Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve are requested to sign is under revision. The Council trusts that the clause may be put in a form less derogatory to the dignity of the profession, and that it may make it clear that members of the Reserve cannot be dismissed by their immediate commanding officers, but will in all cases have an opportunity of stating their case to the Army Council or have some other form of appeal accorded them.”

It was stated that a number of new members had been enrolled and that the Union had gained in solidarity and stability. New committees had been formed at Liverpool and Manchester and would carry on the work and policy which made such a strong appeal to all who valued

independence of thought and the development of the sense of responsibility for the profession to which we belonged.

The increasing importance and need for the self-governing nurses’ societies was emphasized by several speakers.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

NO MONOPOLY.

The College of Nursing Ltd., will hold its annual meeting at the Rooms of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., on Thursday, June 6th, when, for the first time, the members will be permitted to vote for the election of twelve out of the thirty-six nominated members of the Council, who have already (1) agreed to the Articles and Memorandum of the Company, that is defined the Constitution, (2) defined the Rules and Regulations for its system of voluntary registration, and (3) drafted and redrafted half a dozen Registration Bills.

THE NOMINATION PAPER.

A few weeks ago a Nomination Paper was issued to members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the election of twelve members of the Council. With it a list of the present nominated Council was included, showing the names of the twelve retiring members, with the information that each one was standing for re-election, so that there was not one vacancy, unless thousands of nurse members organised to get a new candidate in. Of course they have neither time nor money for this purpose!

At the same time the nurses were informed that they could nominate anyone they chose to serve, “and they need not be members of the College,” so apparently any person, male or female, of any nationality is eligible to govern the Nursing Profession, through the College Council, without either qualifications or any financial responsibility whatever!

The result of this Nomination Paper has been interesting and appears on the Voting Paper sent out. One hundred and two persons have been nominated. By the English Section, 92; by the Irish Section, 6, and by the Scottish, 4, of whom 64 are Matrons, Superintendents, and Assistant Matrons, 13 Sisters and Nurses, 1 Inspector of midwives, 13 doctors, and 1 layman. So far on the nominated Council there has been no representation of the rank and file, and it is to be hoped, therefore, some of the Sisters and Nurses will be elected, in spite of all the nominated Matrons seeking re-election. Seven new medical men have been nominated, and not one medical woman, and this is not surprising as medical women have shown an extraordinary lack of sympathy with the higher education of trained nurses and their professional aspirations. Not one new member of the laity has been nominated.

The Irish Section nominates two new medical

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