

interests of the members of the Nursing Profession as a whole, guarding their interests as it has done for the past 14 years.

We shall continue to claim :—

(1) An independent Governing Body—in the General Nursing Council analogous to the General Medical Council.

(2) That no Supplementary Registers of Specialists be set up other than those for male and mental Nurses.

(3) That no preferential treatment for Nurses on the voluntary Register of the College of Nursing shall be provided in the Bill, but that all trained nurses shall have equal rights of registration on the passing of the Act under the provisions for the time of grace.

(4) That the number of persons to be nominated by the various authorities to compose the General Nursing Council shall be clearly set forth in the Bill.

#### THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

The foundation, by the British Women's Hospital Committee, of the so-called Nation's Fund for Nurses; with the objects of raising money for the endowment of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its Benevolent Fund, was carried out in direct opposition to the strong protest of the organised Nurses' Societies. The organisation of this Fund by a self-constituted and unrepresentative Committee, composed of a few peeresses and actresses, is in no sense "national." It is a registered War Charity, and the methods by which it was forced upon public attention are most distasteful to thousands of self-respecting nurses. In view of the fact that the College of Nursing, Ltd., was controlled by employers, and had refused recognition to independent nurses, the nurses' organisations placed the economic and professional side of the question before the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund, which promised to postpone any work in connection with the Fund until the position was fully analysed. The Committee, nevertheless, launched the Fund without further consulting the nurses, and flooded the leading newspapers with costly and objectionable advertisements, which resulted in the letters of explanation and protest from professional nurses being ruthlessly excluded. The press was bought over our heads, and we had to take the extreme steps of making our protest by means of poster parades, and picketing meetings, in order to express our objection to the interference with our educational standards and economic freedom by persons who are supremely ignorant of our professional requirements, and dealing with them as a War Charity.

#### THE R.B.N.A. AND THE AMALGAMATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

At our last Annual Meeting we reported that the proposals were under consideration for the amalgamation of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the application of the former to the Privy Council for a Supplemental Charter and new Bye-Laws

under which it was proposed the name of the conjoint body should be the Royal British College of Nursing, for which for the first time the laity would be eligible for membership.

After prolonged negotiations, the Lords of the Privy Council required that certain amendments should be introduced into the Supplemental Charter, which seemed of such vital importance to the Council of the R.B.N.A. that they felt it was not to the interest of the Association nor to that of the nursing profession to accept them.

The clause dealing with the professional status of nurses, as amended, cut at the root of the one portal system of nursing education, by providing for the promotion of equivalent curricula and standards of qualification for all classes of nurses.

It was therefore with unqualified relief that this Society was informed that the petitioners had decided not to proceed with their application.

Throughout the negotiations, Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Association, kept in close touch with the proceedings, and it is largely owing to her counsel, advised by the present Hon. Officers, that the Nurses' Charter has been retained in its entirety for the use of the nursing profession. Not only the members of to-day, but future generations of British Nurses owe Her Royal Highness a deep debt of gratitude, and the members of this Society in annual meeting assembled, will, no doubt, wish to convey to the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, an expression of their sincere thanks for the course of action adopted.

#### THE AFFILIATION OF THE NURSES' SOCIETIES WITH THE R.B.N.A.

##### THE NURSES' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

A great step forward has been taken this year by the Royal British Nurses' Association in federating the self-governing nurses' organizations.

Her Royal Highness the President issued invitations to these societies to a conference to consider methods of affiliation. The result has been most gratifying. The six most important societies of nurses have responded to the invitation to affiliate with the Association, and your Executive Committee has nominated your President as your representative, both on to the General Council of the Corporation and on to the new Consultative Committee, through which members of this Society may find expression on all questions of professional importance.

##### THE PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The Petition to the Prime Minister, asking that any Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses brought in by the Government, or otherwise, shall provide for the direct representation of the organized societies of nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, on the Provisional Governing Body authorised by Parliament to frame the rules and regulations to which the registered nurses will have to conform, has been

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