

Everyone should visit this Exhibition, which is now open to the public. Entrance fee one shilling. The proceeds will be devoted to the work of the Red Cross Society.

H. H.

## ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

### AN IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION.

The following important communication has been addressed by the Royal British Nurses' Association to the various Trained Nurses' Societies, and we have no doubt that many of them will respond in the spirit of comradeship which inspires the invitation. The great need of the Nursing Profession is for co-operation and solidarity, and any movement upon the part of the Royal Chartered Corporation of Nurses, in the hope of promoting such a desirable end, deserves the earnest consideration of all concerned. We are glad to note that the communication lays stress on the need of protecting the position of the fully trained and qualified nurse, owing to the circumstances which have arisen out of the present war.

There is no doubt there is a deep sense of injustice smouldering in the minds of qualified nurses, at the manner in which their hard-earned qualifications, and status, have been depreciated, or ignored, by the amateurs of social eminence who have seized control of nursing affairs, at home and abroad, and have done so much to sweep away the efficient standards of nursing, built up by the workers with so much devotion during the past fifty years.

### THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Royal British Nurses' Association,  
10, Orchard Street,  
Portman Square,  
London, W. 1.

4th January, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—My Executive Committee have been giving consideration to various proposals for increasing the usefulness of the Association and its Charter to nurses and for exercising to the utmost possible extent the powers which the Charter affords for safeguarding and promoting their interests. My Committee consider that although the Nurses' Charter is legally in the possession of the Royal British Nurses' Association it should, as far as possible, be used to benefit all members of the profession, and their wish is to exercise the powers which it confers in no narrow spirit, particularly as circumstances have arisen out of the present war which make it desirable

that every effort should be made now to protect the position of the fully trained and qualified nurse.

My Committee would be glad to know at an early date whether your Society would be prepared to co-operate with the Corporation in an effort to achieve greater co-ordination between the various nurses societies, and so to add to the force behind the Charter in order to make it productive of the greatest good to the greatest multitude.

Should your Society decide to act in sympathy with the Royal British Nurses' Association in its effort thus to further the interests of the profession we shall be glad if you will appoint a delegate to attend a Round Table Conference, and to bring forward any suggestions from your Society for promoting the best interests of the nurses. We propose to call the Conference for the afternoon of February 5th.

I am, Madam,

Yours very faithfully,

ISABEL MACDONALD.

Secretary.

### FRESH AIR.

This month's issue of the *Nurses' Journal*, the official organ of the R.B.N.A., contains a full account of the Special General Meeting held on the 12th December, at which the members endorsed the policy of the General Council in deciding not to accept amendments by the Privy Council in the proposed Supplemental Charter and By-Laws providing for the amalgamation of the College of Nursing, Ltd. There is a refreshing candour in the report printed in the *Nurses' Journal* for which the members should be thankful, and which is sometimes lacking in "official organs." Nothing but good can result from complete frankness as between the Hon. Officers and members of any professional organisation, and we welcome evidence of a straightforward policy upon the part of the present officials of the R.B.N.A. as a good augury for the future.

### THE PRESERVATION OF CHILD LIFE.

Following on the lecture to be given on January 10th, on "A Trip to America and American Hospitals," by Mr. Herbert Paterson, M.C., F.R.C.S., Lady Barrett, M.D., has consented to lecture on "The Preservation of Child Life" on January 24th. H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, Vice-President of the Association, will preside.

### FALLEN FROM THEIR HIGH ESTATE.

The Burdett press of January 5th contains under the above heading the following statement:—"In earlier days the fact that a nurse was a member of the Royal British Nurses'

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