

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., AND POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

A good deal of feeling has been aroused amongst Poor Law Guardians by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., sending the following circular of inquiry over their heads to the Matrons of Poor Law Infirmaries—as in this breach of etiquette the College has failed to recognize that the Poor Law Infirmaries are public institutions administered under legal rules, and the Guardians are the authorized channel by which information is officially conveyed. The circular has also been addressed to Matrons of voluntary hospitals. No doubt in both cases the Matrons will obtain permission from their Boards before complying with the demands of the College.

THE COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL ETIQUETTE.

The College of Nursing, Limited,

6, Vere Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. 1.

The Matron,

Dear Madam,—The objects of the College of Nursing will be known to you as including the following:—To raise the standard of training, to promote a uniform curriculum and one portal examination, to establish lectureships and scholarships, and to make and maintain a Register of Trained Nurses.

Up to the present the Council of the College has largely centred its activities on the compilation of a Register which now numbers 8,800 nurses, and the Registration Committee acknowledges most gratefully the help and information you have given concerning applications for registration.

The Consultative Committee, appointed to consider the curricula of Training Schools, now appeals to you for further assistance in this important matter.

Before considering any plans for the future, the wisest course would appear to be to ascertain what is the present curriculum in the different Nurse Training Schools, and it would materially assist the work of this Committee if you would kindly supply the information requested on the following form, and any other particulars you may have that would be helpful in the matter.

With apologies for the trouble I am giving you,

I remain, yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, Secretary.

QUESTIONS.

1. For what period of training, or periods, do you grant your Certificate of General Nursing?
2. Is sick leave, or any time beyond recognised annual leave, made up after the period of training?
3. What Lectures are delivered to Probationers, and if you have a Syllabus, will you kindly send it?
4. Are your Nurses instructed in Sick Room Cookery?
5. Are the Examinations written and oral? How often are they held during the period of training, and by whom are they conducted?
6. What Beds have you besides those for General Medical and Surgical cases?
7. Are any facilities offered in the fourth year for preparation in special branches of work, e.g., Massage, Midwifery, &c.?

Space is provided for the answers, and for the signature thereto of the Matron or Superintendent of Nursing.

A COLONIAL OPINION.

The following letter appears in the issue of *Una*, the official organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, just received in this country:

To the Editor of "Una."

Dear Sir,—I notice with surprise that up to the present time you have not in our nursing journal attempted to voice an opinion upon the College of Nursing which is now being launched in London by Sir Arthur Stanley. . . . It is of real live interest in the nursing circles of Great Britain, and as fellow-nurses I think it is about time we roused ourselves and became acquainted with the facts.

I have always been an advocate of direct representation upon any board or council of nurses. I fail to see how any lay control can ever be the right thing in the interests of the nurses themselves.

Sir Arthur Stanley holds the position of Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital as well as that of Chairman of the British Red Cross Society. His knowledge of the nursing profession would necessarily be that of an employer. There are several matrons of large hospitals also connected with the college. This I do not consider advisable, as after years of work with committees, &c., they more or less acquire the institutional mind. The general nurse wants someone in power who will be able to entertain her point of view in dealing with items of nursing.

Here in Victoria the personnel of the Council of the R.V.T.N.A. is regulated by the nurse voters, who elect members once a year. A few are nominated by the committees of the special training schools, and the appointment ratified by the Council. In most cases the hospitals suggest their matrons.

The readers of *Una* will well remember the firm stand this Council took when the then Minister of Health decided that there be no nursing member upon the proposed board to administer the State Registration Bill for nurses. In the opinion of those best qualified to know, it was considered that it would be better to have no Bill at all unless the profession to be governed and regulated had a voice in the administration.

When I was in London, in 1912, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Dr. Chapple—who, by the way, was once in New Zealand—were working for their Bill, which, if I remember rightly, was introduced into the House of Commons by our present Governor-General, Sir R. Munro Ferguson, who passed it over to Dr. Chapple when leaving England. The aims and ideals of their proposed Bill seemed much the same as the objects we are striving for. As a keen registrationist I warmly support them in their efforts, as it appears to be the best course to uplift and safeguard the nursing profession. I hope now that so many nurses are eligible as women voters they will strive to place the important rôle they try to maintain, viz., the health of a nation, before their Parliamentary representatives, so that their services may become more efficient.—I am, &c.,

GRETTA LYONS.

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