

Nurses' Association. Such affiliation is not only an advantage to the Corporation, whose sphere of influence is thus enlarged, but to the affiliated societies, which, while retaining their own autonomy, benefit by the strength derived from union, and from the prestige and power which association under the Royal Charter confers. It is a unique and most powerful combine. A Consultative Committee, representative of the Affiliated Associations, has been formed, which, it is hoped, will keep them in touch with the Association and with one another.

Another important step taken by the Royal British Nurses' Association has been the adoption, by arrangement with the Editor, of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as the official organ of the Association. The JOURNAL now includes a Royal British Nurses' Association Supplement every other week, and the publication of the monthly organ of the Association has been discontinued. By this means forces are consolidated and the members of the R.B.N.A. get their Association news more frequently.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The Nurses' Registration Bill of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses—the parent Bill, which has behind it the considered opinion of the British Medical Association and the organized societies of nurses—has been revised and reprinted. A seventh draft of the Bill of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has also been published, and bears the impress of the patient negotiations of the Central Committee, inasmuch as it provides guarantees that the qualification for admission to the General Register, after the period of grace, shall be not less than three years' training and the passing of a central examination, and that a certain number of seats shall be secured on the Permanent Council, which is to administer the Act to registered nurses.

Nominally, also, the principle that the organized nurses' societies shall be represented on the first Council, has been conceded, but this concession, valuable as it appears on the surface, has been rendered valueless by the fact that the only duty which this Provisional Council can perform is to prepare and present to the Privy Council the rules required to be made under the Act for setting up the first General Nursing Council, on which the nurses' societies are not to be represented.

This is a dangerously subtle provision, as, superficially, it appears to concede to the

organized societies the right which the College has persistently denied.

The Bill of the College of Nursing, Ltd., also incorporates the College, with its autocratic Memorandum and Articles of Association in the Bill, and virtually seeks to secure an unfair preference; indeed practically to obtain a monopoly for the College Register.

It must be remembered in this connection that the Memorandum of the College gives the Council the right to remove a nurse's name from its Register without power of appeal, and that right of appeal was only inserted in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the College after strenuous representations on behalf of the Central Committee.

A new and most dangerous Clause of the Bill is that which empowers the Council to form as many Supplementary Registers as it pleases, thus undercutting the value of a three years' standardized certificate and dealing most unfairly with nurses by the registration of specialists, who will find themselves unqualified for the best positions in the hospital world and the most remunerative work outside.

The Central Committee, after carefully considering both Bills and adopting certain minor details in the College of Nursing Bill, expressed the unanimous opinion that the present Bill of the Central Committee is a better Bill than that drafted by the College of Nursing and should be adhered to.

It further resolved—

"That it is the considered opinion of the Committee that the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses should be presented to Parliament, and that the College of Nursing, Ltd., be formally invited to agree to this Bill, and join in getting it passed."

This invitation has been refused by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., without consulting its members, and the responsibility therefore rests upon that Council of once again sowing dissension, where the various interests concerned in nurses' registration had been carefully co-ordinated, and three Bills amalgamated in one agreed Bill.

The radical difference between the two Bills and the reason for the impossibility of co-ordinating them is that the Bill of the College, however camouflaged, is framed in the interests of the employers, whereas that of the Central Committee safeguards those of the workers.

It is now proposed to introduce both Bills into the House of Commons, and it remains for Parliament to frame a just Bill, protecting this great body of professional women from interested control, and almost universal ex-

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