

for examination is the sum (as agreed by the House of Lords) that we consider adequate, though moderate, for financing State Registration of Nurses in the four parts of the Kingdom. And a very moderate fee, too, when we realise what State organisation means to the trained nurses of the future. The pity is so few of them do realise what it means. Compare it with the fees from £20 to £40 for preparation for the Certificate of the Midwives Board, and the £5 5s. charged by numerous sanitary institutes for their sectional examination and certificate. We must not forget that three offices, with three sets of officials must be kept up. That the register of any number of names from 50,000 to 100,000 will cost some £3,000 to print and publish and that to keep such a register correct, with the constant movements of the nurses, will be a very costly business. Then, when the three years' term of grace is at an end, and the Central Examination in operation, nurses will need to be examined in anatomy, physiology, the theory of general medical and surgical nursing, including therapeutics, clinical nursing, gynaecological, infectious, children's, and other special branches of nursing, to say nothing of dietetics. The examiners must be experts and well paid—and then we hear of persons who imagine this great educational work can be done for £1 is. Such persons acknowledge themselves entirely ignorant of the matter. The State Registration of Nurses entails the organisation of and standardisation of the professional education of 100,000 women in this country, and close association with thousands of nurses in India and in our Overseas Dominions. Do not let us forget our Bill provides for reciprocal registration with our sisters throughout the Empire. A magnificent, far-reaching, heart to heart bit of Imperial work, which would be cheap at any price, for the benefit of our people, and all the races dependent upon a nurse's knowledge of the laws of health.

When people begin to pettifog on the question of State Registration finance, we have got to pray for patience without end!

TO SUM UP.

To sum up. The Committee has agreed (1) To an independent Governing Body for the Nursing Profession; (2) Direct representation on the First General Nursing Council to make the Rules, of the Nurses' Organisations which have promoted and paid for, and understand the movement; (3) Two years' time in which to form a register of independent nurses; (4) Direct representation of these registered nurses on the General Nursing Council in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland; (5) The protected title of Registered Nurse; and (6) Power to institute protected uniforms and badges.

Let all those nurses worthy of such great privileges unite and work heart and soul to further the interests of their Bill.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

THE COLLEGE ANIMOSITY TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S BILL.

We much regret to note the animosity of the Matrons on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to the Nurses' Registration Bill, now before Parliament, and that—after agreement between their representative, Lieut.-Colonel Raw, and Major Barnett, in charge of the Bill, in consultation with the representatives of the Local Government Board during the Committee stage—the Matrons are organising various phases of agitation, in violation of the agreement arrived at.

COLLEGE MATRONS ATTACK THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

We have received a dozen copies of a Petition, marked "urgent," which has been issued with no address, the replies thereto to be returned to Miss Lloyd-Still, Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, or to Miss Cox-Davies, Matron, Royal Free Hospital. These ladies invite the signatures of Matrons and Superintendents to the following statement, presumably to be sent to Members of Parliament:—

We, the undersigned trained Nurses, who hold, or have held, the position of Matron or Superintendent of Hospitals and Institutions concerned in the training of Nurses and the care of the sick, wish to state for your consideration the following facts:—

(1) In the interests of our Profession, and for the safeguarding of the public, we desire to have adequate representation on the General Nursing Council to be set up under the Bill for State Registration of Nurses:

(2) Under the Bill at present before the House, such representation is provided for by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, a body which is in no sense representative of the heads of the Nursing Profession, as is proved by the fact that none of the undersigned are in any way connected with it.

This statement is very misleading, as there is nothing to prevent the whole eighteen nurses who are eligible for seats on the General Nursing Council being Matrons, nominated or elected, and the College Council can continue their determined policy of government by Matrons by nominating four.

The crime of the Matrons' Council in the eyes of these ladies is presumably in daring to exist, and to courageously work for State Registration for a quarter of a century, in the teeth of their opposition, or without their patronage and support.

But how ungenerous an attitude of mind!

The policy of the Matrons' Council to safeguard the interests of the public and the nursing profession, so steadfastly pursued has proved right. Why cannot their colleagues, who had neither the ability to promote the movement, nor, apparently, the conscience and courage to support it when opposed by their Committees, bow gracefully to the inevitable, and unite to carry out this

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