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EDITORIAL.

HANDS OFF NURSING STANDARDS.

When Parliament assembles on February 4th two Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will presumably be introduced into the House of Commons, (1) The Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, based on the Bill passed by the House of Lords in 1908, and that drafted by the Council of the College of Nursing, Limited. It is important that nurses should grasp the salient points about these two Bills, and be able to explain them to those with whom they come in contact.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S BILL.

The Central Committee's Bill is a democratic measure giving equality of opportunity to all nurses in regard to registration. It is supported by all the nationally organized self-governing Societies of Nurses, and the British Medical Association; and includes in its supporters those who have studied and have been working at the question for over thirty years, and who secured the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons "to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses," which after taking evidence in two Sessions (in 1904 and 1905) presented a unanimous report to Parliament in favour of this reform.

The object of the Central Committee's Bill, as defined in its title is "To regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses and to provide for their Registration." It protects the interests of nurses in practice at the passing of the Act, during a three years' term of grace, and provides for one portal, through a central examination, subsequently, for admission to the General Register of Women Nurses, securing to them the exclusive title of "Registered Nurse." Sup-

plementary Registers of Male Nurses and Mental Nurses, with the distinctive titles of "Registered Male Nurse" and "Registered Mental Nurse," for the information of the public, are also provided for.

Careful provision is made for the representation of the organised societies of nurses on the First General Nursing Council, the Council which will frame the Rules to which the Registered Nurses will have to conform.

THE BILL OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The object of the Bill approved by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is "To provide for the Training and Registration of Nurses." It gives an unfair preference to members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., by providing for their admission to the State Register "without further fee." It provides that the College shall be administered by the General Nursing Council, that it shall be entitled to drop the word "Limited," and that its autocratic "Memorandum and Articles of Association shall . . . remain in full force and effect."

It ostensibly provides for the representation of the Societies associated in the Central Committee on the Provisional (or first) General Nursing Council, but restricts the duties of this Council to regulating the constitution of the General Nursing Council, and eliminates their representatives before the rules and regulations are framed.

It provides for a three years' term of training under a definite curriculum, but not necessarily in "hospital wards," and the provision is invalidated by Clause 4 of the Bill, which (in addition to the Male Nurses' Register and Mental Nurses' Register) provides that "The General Nursing Council may at any time, with the assent of the Privy Council, institute other Supplementary Registers to include nurses

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