

Kingdom, should take part in this important Convention—the first since the cessation of war.

Miss Breay expressed her pleasure that this honour should be conferred upon her, and agreed to accept the invitation if possible. The delegates did justice to the excellent tea served by Sister Cartwright, and of course talked "Registration," the while, though unknown to them, the Minister of Health was introducing his Bill for the State Registration of Nurses into the Mother of Parliaments.

BEATRICE CUTLER,  
(Hon. Secretary).

### THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING.

The Central Council for District Nursing in London was formed in 1914.

The objects of the Council are to systematise the arrangements for District Nursing throughout the County of London and to secure the adequacy and efficiency of such nursing. In the course of their efforts to fulfil this object, the Council have found that a real need exists amongst the District Nursing Associations in regard to the provision of supernumerary nurses at times of special pressure.

At the meeting of the Council in 1918 it was accordingly agreed:

"(a) That a register be kept by the Central Council, in which should be recorded the name, address and training of nurses who are willing to serve for part of the year . . . (b) that no nurse be added to the register who has had less than three years' approved training, and that experience in District Nursing be also taken into account."

The consideration of the matter was postponed by the Executive Committee during the year which followed on account of the impossibility of securing nurses during the War.

From the advertisement which appears in this issue, it will be seen that the Council now propose to establish a register of Emergency Nurses from which the various Associations can draw in case of exceptional sickness and times of emergency.

It is hoped that many of the nurses who have recently been demobilised, together with other nurses who are so situated as to be prepared to undertake occasional duty although unable to engage themselves for regular work throughout the year, will be willing to put themselves into touch with the Central Council with a view to aiding the District Nursing service of London in the way suggested.

### COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD. A HOPEFUL SIGN.

The members of the Northumberland and Durham Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., at their last monthly meeting at Newcastle passed the following resolution:—

"This meeting desires to offer its sincere sympathy to the trained nurses who recently applied for the post of assistant matron at a pensioners' hostel in the city, in the invidious position in which they were placed when a war probationer was appointed to the post, with the usual salary of a trained assistant in a small hospital. On the outbreak of war it was explained to trained nurses that temporary war probationers and V.A.D. members would not, after the war was over, be placed in positions usually held by trained nurses."

Thousands of nurses were persuaded to join the College by their matron's influence, by the argument that if they did not do so at once, V.A.D.s would compete with trained nurses after the war, and now they find that through British Red Cross influence these amateurs are being promoted over their heads. The above resolution is the first sign that members of the College are awakening to the economic competition already in their midst. We hope they will rouse themselves still further and demand from the College Council an explanation of its futility so far as the interest of the rank-and-file is concerned, and if no redress is possible let them wake up on the Trade Union ticket and manage their own affairs.

### QUEENS CANUTE.

The following letter appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on November 10th. The day the College Company was founded to organise the Nursing Profession under lay control, and nominated an oligarchy of some forty hospital officials to control it, many nurses realised that the hour had struck for them to establish a Nurses' Union to govern themselves.

#### A TRADE UNION FOR NURSES.

SIR,—An account has appeared in the press of "A Professional Trade Union for Nurses." We feel, unless the other side is put before your readers, they will think the majority of nurses are in favour of this union. We wish to point out that the large mass of nurses are distressed by the tone of the speakers at these meetings. The College of Nursing gives all the benefits suggested by the union except the power to "strike," and so long as we remain true to our nursing ideals the strike can never be a weapon used by us; we want still to feel that our work is "service through sacrifice."

Many vast and needed improvements are coming about by the quiet work of the College of Nursing, and we never want a trade union to raise a barrier between us and our patients.—Yours, &c.,

E. BURGESS, Trained Nurse, Milverton Lodge, Victoria Park.

A. BURGESS, Matron, Crumpsall Infirmary.

E. S. PILGRIM, Inspector Queen's Nurses, Lancashire area.

E. M. SMITH, Superintendent of Nurses, Nell Lane Military Hospital.

M. E. SPARSHOTT, Lady Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

We commend the story of King Canute to these signatories!

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