

## THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S CLAUSE.

To quote the clause dealing with the registration of *bona fide* nurses from the *printed* Bill drafted by the Central Committee.

(Clause 12, subsection 4) produces evidence satisfactory to the Council of training prescribed by the rules framed under the provisions of this Act, and has, in addition, been for at least three years in a *bona fide* practice as a nurse.

"L. G. B." further deludes her readers by quoting part of the clause dealing with the *bona fide* nurse in the College Bill.

The College Bill omits all mention of *training*, and leaves everything to chance and the caprice of persons who may form the first Council, but "L. G. B." carefully keeps from them the fact that not one seat is *secured* to the registered nurses.

Nearly every paragraph in this article contains, and purposely contains a falsehood. (1) That only 18 instead of 42 members of the Council are elected by the nurses. The truth is that 26 members are so elected, counting the representatives of the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing. (2) That the Central Committee's Bill provides for an annual subscription. It does no such thing. The sixpenny register, as "L. G. B." is fully aware, was proposed in, and passed by, Committee E., and is down for elimination by amendment in the name of Major Barnett. But this scurrilous article is only one of many circulated by members of the College of Nursing.

We are tabulating the series, and in the history of this monumental struggle of the trained nurse for emancipation from feudalism, and the manner in which the "Serf Section" of the profession are used to deprive themselves and their colleagues of professional self-government, will, we hope, be a lesson for all time to future generations of nurses. We advise Royal Free nurses to read this Journal weekly, when the evil influence at work in their midst may be somewhat counteracted.

## STATE REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE.

We learn with pleasure that the Executive Committee of the British and Constitutional Labour Party have unanimously adopted a resolution urging that in the interest of the public and the Nursing Profession, a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses should be introduced at once, in conformity with the pledge given by the Minister of Health on June 27th, and expressing the opinion that in any such Bill the following principles should be safeguarded: (1) The establishment of an independent statutory body to maintain the State Register and to control and regulate the curriculum of Nurses' Training; (2) the establishment of a one portal examination for admission to the Register; and (3) representation on the Registration Council of the organised Societies of Nurses—whose efforts have caused the Nurses' Registration Bill to be introduced—and the

direct representation of Registered Nurses by Registered Nurses on their Governing Body.

Although they have been enfranchised for years on equal terms with men, Australasian Trained Nurses appear to have the same difficulty we have at home, in obtaining legal status, and some degree of professional protection. Miss Gretta Lyons, of Victoria, is a valiant fighter in the cause, and in welcoming the Report of the late Chief Inspector of Charities in Victoria, who "urges the necessity for legislation for the protection of trained nurses, and draws attention to the fact that untrained nurses may practice as nurses on an equal footing with trained nurses so long as they do not advertise that they are registered, and who considers the public is at least entitled to know that a person wearing a nurse's uniform had been trained for the profession," Miss Lyons states: "When a person pays the standard nursing fee, it is only just that he should receive the services of a skilled, certificated nurse. Only by registration can the public be safely protected. There appears to be no valid reason why such a needed reform should be delayed. Registration in the different countries has shown gratifying results to the public, as well as to the profession. Had it been in force in Victoria during the influenza epidemic, I am confident the complete organisation arising out of registration of all trained nurses would have amply justified its existence."

And we may add, had the "anti's" now grouped in the College of Nursing, Ltd., not obstructed State Registration for a quarter of a century in this country, the V.A.D. competition with the trained nurse would never have arisen.

Reverting to Victoria, we hope Sir Ronald and Lady Helen Munro Ferguson will not leave Australian nurses unregistered when their term of office expires.

## FAIR COMMENT.

*The Medical Press* has always been sound on the right sort of registration for nurses, and in a recent issue welcomed the announcement made in the House of Commons by Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, that the Government will promote a Nurses' Registration Bill at an early date. *The Medical Press* remarks:—

"By this admirable move on the part of the Minister of Health, the aggressive tactics adopted in the controversy by the College of Nursing Ltd., will no longer avail, while the prospect is favourable, through a Government Act, of nurses being brought under similar statutory control as that which applies to the medical profession."

We invite the Editor of this medical journal to continue his good offices towards a just form of nurses' legislation and to help save us from the "aggressors" and all their "knaveish tricks." No self-respecting nurse intends to submit to the "Wrecking Council."

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