

a marked effect upon the status of the schools, and arouse keen and commendable rivalry amongst them. We take it that Practical Nursing will, from the outset, be determinedly encouraged, and that the Practical Nursing Examination, conducted, of course, by highly skilled Nurse Examiners, will take a very leading place in the Pass Lists. Theory we must have. No good system of nursing can be evolved which is not based on sound theoretical principles, but everything should be done that can be done through examination, to test and reward practical knowledge, and manual dexterity, in our Registered Nurses to be. *The comfort, if not the recovery, of the patient depends upon it.*

In the past, when everything was done by rule of thumb, the face, the build, and the hands of candidates for training were realised as assets. We know a Matron who never selected a woman for training who did not *look like a nurse!*

Of late years, when the supply of first-rate candidates has not equalled the demand of our training schools, the best has often had to be made of second-rate material. We are now all looking forward to the splendid future, when the new Profession of Nursing will attract women of refined antecedents, good education and reliable character. It is not too much to say that the General Nursing Councils to be set up under the Nursing Acts will have, to a very great extent, the future of Nursing in their hands. As they sow wisely and tend their saplings, so will grow the tree, so will they bloom and bear fruit. Never will any body of men and women have finer scope for national service than those comprising the First Councils under the Acts, and whoever they may be, they should command all the sympathy and help possible from the nurses in the United Kingdom, whose very devoted representatives and friends it should be their first aim to be.

E. G. F.

(To be continued.)

ELECTION ON GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

We are indebted to the Editor of *The Poor Law Officers' Journal* for many thoughtful expressions of opinion on our professional affairs. It goes without saying that his journal contained an accurate and succinct account of the meeting convened by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses addressed by Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, on January 8th.

Also, the editor refers to our remarks on the question of election on the General Nursing Council. We approve as we have always done of Supplementary Registers of Male and Mental Nurses, but of no other classes of nurses, and we consider that these specialists should vote for direct representatives of their own classes on to the General Nursing Council, so as to secure expert representation, but not for the representatives of the General Nurses on the General Register.

POOR LAW GUARDIANS AND THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions, held at the Connaught Rooms on the 15th inst., a deputation was appointed consisting of the President, Alderman F. J. Beavan, the Rev. P. S. G. Propert, Mr. Munro (Vice-President), Mr. A. Chapman (Hon. Treasurer), and the Secretary, to wait upon the Minister of Health to press upon him the claims of the Association as representing the heads of training schools, to be represented on the General Council constituted under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

As constituted, the General Nursing Council under the Act does not provide for any extensive representation of lay employers of nurses, and as its functions are educational and judicial this is right. The practical heads of the Poor Law Infirmary Training Schools are the trained Matrons, and no doubt this class of nurse will be represented on the Council as she should be. In the near future, what are now termed Poor Law Infirmarys will become more and more hospitals for the sick, and training schools for medical and nursing practitioners, and they should thus be controlled by the Ministry of Health.

There is no valid reason why a Union of Poor Law Guardians, who can know very little of nursing education, and who have no right of jurisdiction over the Nursing Profession as a whole, should have representation on the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession. Such claims are no longer tenable.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, held at Norfolk House on the 17th inst., Dr. J. Williams presented the report of the Nurses' Sub-Committee, which dealt with the Nurses' Registration Act. It was stated that as it was an accomplished fact, it could not now be altered, but it rather seemed to suit the Poor-Law Officers' Association. It was a skeleton measure, the new administration being relegated to a Council yet to be established by the Ministry of Health. He explained its constitution as set out in the Act, which his Committee thought gave them a chance of making known the Service view and of assisting in moulding the new body. It was suggested that the Association should apply for three representatives—a justifiable request considering the number of nurses who were members—and it was recommended that Mr. Percival, the Secretary and himself should seek an interview with the Ministry which would in due course appoint the new Council. Their

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