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EDITORIAL.

NURSING IN 1920 AND AFTER.

The year 1920 opened auspiciously for trained nurses, for the long years of working for their legal status were over, and the Nurses' Registration Acts on the Statute Book. Dr. Addison has been accused of a partiality for introducing legislation, but the nursing profession owes him a deep debt of gratitude, of which its members are very sensible, that he included a Government Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in his legislative programme, and thus brought to an end the thirty years' struggle of nurses for power to organise their profession, for the safety of the public, and their own benefit.

Since the General Nursing Councils for the different parts of the United Kingdom were established, in May of this year, they have chiefly been engaged in drafting the Rules. It must be remembered that the work of these Councils is not only concerned with compiling the State Register of Nurses, but with the definition of a uniform curriculum, and its maintenance through a one portal examination for admission to the State Register. The General Nursing Council for England and Wales has adopted the plan of appointing Standing Committees to deal with different aspects of its work:—

The Registration Committee (Chair, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick).

The Education and Examination Committee (Chair, Miss Lloyd Still).

The Mental Nursing Committee (Chair, Dr. Bedford Pierce).

The Finance Committee (Chair, Sir T. Jenner Verrall).

The Penal Cases and Disciplinary Committee (Chair, Mr. J. C. Priestley, K.C., Chairman of the Council).

The principal part of the work of the Registration Committee has been the drafting of the Rules for the conduct of business and for the registration of existing nurses, a few of which are still under the consideration of the Minister of Health.

The Finance Committee has secured a charming house—12, York Place, Regent's

Park—as the home of the Council, which will no doubt prove very convenient, and is on the direct route from all the large stations through which country members come to town.

The Mental Nurses Committee is doing good work, and mental nurses are in the fortunate position of already having their educational curriculum and examination organised through the Medico-Psychological Association whose pioneer work will no doubt prove of great value to the Council.

The Penal Cases and Disciplinary Committee has drafted Rules, but its activities have, of course, at present been nil, and we hope will be very limited in the future, as we have no doubt the Registration Committee will carefully scrutinise all applications for Registration in reference to moral standards as well as professional qualifications.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has given loyal support to the principle of the Registration Acts, and the Association established the first voluntary Register of Trained Nurses in 1891. Now that Parliament has enacted that such Registers shall be maintained under the authority of the State, the Council of the R.B.N.A. have wisely decided to discontinue the publication of the Register. But as the Royal Chartered Corporation must always take precedence of the Nurses' organisations and is actively alive to the well-being of the profession, it has plenty of scope in other directions.

In the four years that the Trained Nurses Annuity Fund has been associated with the Association, with its Secretary, Miss Isabel Macdonald, as Hon. Secretary of the Fund, it has been increased by the addition of £9,000. From 1874 to 1916 it had accumulated £20,000. It is therefore in an eminently healthy condition.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., is to be congratulated on the fact that it has reformed its objectionable constitution in two particulars: (1) Nurses whom its Council proposes to

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