

that the Nurses' Section shall not support with its funds, or endeavour to procure or impose on its members, or others, the observance of any regulation or restriction which, if an object of the parent Association, would make it a trade union.

Mr. G. Dillon, the Bolton Branch Secretary of the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union, writes to the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* to criticise the undemocratic basis of the Poor Law Nurses' Guild, with whose opinions the Editor disagrees.

We have always been of opinion that to be any real use to a profession, Leagues, Guilds, Associations, &c., must be entirely composed of members of the profession concerned, and until nurses adopt this principle they prove themselves incapable of self-government, or that employers are too strong for them. This principle prevails in the National Associations of Nurses throughout the Dominions (with the exception of Australia), in many European countries, and, of course, in the United States.

What has been the result? Solidarity and steady beneficent constructive organisation always on the up-grade for the benefit not only of nurses but the community. Why, therefore, must groups of persons always be striving to control nurses' societies? Apparently it is the same in every branch of nursing.

The eight-hours' working day is not meeting with approval in a number of the hospitals and kindred institutions in Norfolk. Thus the House Committee of the Norwich Poor Law Infirmary have recommended that the adoption of an eight-hour day for the nursing and domestic staff be rescinded, and the Chairman of the Board will move a resolution confirming the recommendation at the next meeting of the Board. We understand that a recommendation of the Children's Committee for the adoption of an eight-hour day for the staff of the Scattered Homes is also to be rescinded.

A number of nurses are being discharged from various institutions, and those remaining have to do full duty.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy have in hand a course of Advanced Lectures on Infant Care, especially intended for Crèche Nurses and Probationers. The Lectures are to be held in the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Thursdays, from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m., May 5th to July 1st. Apply to the Secretary, 4 and 5, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The nursing and Poor-Law Press are giving the General Nursing Council much gratuitous advice. It assumes it has a right apparently to be present on all occasions, and that even in the initial stages of the Council, before its Rules are agreed, it has no right to any privacy whatever. Take the Conference of Nursing experts being this week invited to take counsel with the Council. Why may Matrons and other nurses not meet together and thrash out their own problems privately without every word being reported more or less correctly by unprofessional reporters? No such Press control is attempted either in Edinburgh or Dublin, where the Nursing Councils consider business in peace and quietness. Neither are the Press admitted to discussions of the Standing Committee of the Midwives Board. When the Committee has deliberated, its conclusions are typed and handed to the Press at a full meeting of the Board.

We must not be misunderstood. We approve publicity, but we also approve discretion. Once the discussions on the Rules are at an end and agreement arrived at between the three Nursing Councils, we hope a very full statement of the pros and cons of the Rules will be issued through the Press to the nursing profession, and the public; and that the reasoned policy of the English Council will receive wide publicity. We would like the nurses to know that it is their true interest the Council has had at heart, which has delayed for so long the framing of certain rules, which might be inimical to them. Once the Rules are sanctioned the Council meetings will seldom have need to exclude the Press.

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

### NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th, 1921.

The Registrar submitted a letter, dated April 16th, from the Scottish Board of Health, informing the Council that the Board had appointed Miss N. M. Fraser (Matron of Gray's Hospital, Elgin) in room of Miss Janet Melrose (resigned). It was intimated that Miss Fraser had accepted the appointment.

The Draft Syllabus prepared by the Syllabus Committee was considered and was remitted back to the Committee.

The Draft Rules for existing nurses, &c., were again considered and were approved, subject to certain minor alterations.

The Council considered the question of jurisdiction, and it was felt most desirable that an understanding should be come to with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in regard to this matter. Dr. Fraser, Convener of the Rules Committee, reported the result of the meeting

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