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EDITORIAL.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPILING THE
STATE REGISTERS OF NURSES.**

To subscribers to this professional nursing journal we are sure it is quite unnecessary to address the following remarks, because they are intimately acquainted with registration detail, and will be the first to realise that the long delay in acquiring statutory power to compile the State Registers means an almost overpowering task in tackling the present disorganisation of the profession of nursing, and bringing order out of chaos so far as available records are concerned, but to members of the nursing profession generally we urge that they will greatly facilitate the work at Headquarters if they will carefully conform to the Rules in so far as the Application Form is concerned.

Every well-trained and certificated nurse will require that the clerical work of compiling the Registers must be, as far as possible, absolutely accurate, as Parliament has charged the General Nursing Councils with this responsibility. Names, addresses, dates of training and Certificates must be carefully verified and recorded—especially is this necessary so far as original Hospital Certificates are concerned—if the Register, when published, is to be of use to, and depended upon by, the public, and as evidence in Courts of Law.

We regret to note that nurses are being encouraged by some journals to look upon submitting their original Certificates to inspection at Headquarters as unnecessary. Surely certificated nurses realise the importance of presenting *evidence* of their professional proficiency in applying for State Registration, especially as they will doubtless require that

their professional qualifications shall be accurately inscribed in the Register. Here and there a case of hardship may arise—a nurse is abroad, her Certificate is filed under lock and key at considerable distance; a Certificate may have been lost, stolen, or destroyed—and in these extreme cases the only course is to appeal to the officials of her training school, and ask for a certified copy of her Certificate from the Training School records, and produce that document.

Several nurses we know have asked for and received immediate help from hospital Secretaries and Matrons, but such certified copies of Certificates mean much clerical work for the hospital staff, and a nurse is not justified in asking for such a copy, unless it is impossible for her to procure her original Certificate.

We warmly sympathise with our colleagues on the great value they attribute to their Certificates. Well do we know how hard many of them have worked to secure them. Three or four years of exacting ward work, long hours, strenuous study in times off duty, the anxiety of preparing for the examination, and the ordeal of the examination itself! Then the happiness of securing parchment evidence that they have attained proficiency in the theory and practice of their profession—the “open sesame” to professional preferment.

Doubtless, therefore, when the entry of the qualifications on which she was registered appear in the published Register every certificated nurse will expect to find her qualifications accurately recorded; and she will have just cause of complaint if they are inaccurate. For this reason it is the Applicant's duty to cheerfully comply with the Rules, and thus help the Councils and clerical staffs to carry out their responsible duties without unnecessary trouble.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)