

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

CERTIFICATED NURSES FEAR PROFESSIONAL AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE.

A Meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses was held, by the kind permission of the British Medical Association, at 429, Strand, W.C., on Saturday, November 26th.

The Central Committee—which was named in the Schedule of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, as one of the bodies which the Minister of Health was enjoined to consult before appointing the sixteen nurse members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on its first constitution—was called to discuss the following business:—

“To consider the question whether the word ‘certificate’ should appear on the State Register as a qualification for Existing and Intermediate Nurses, and to take such action as may seem desirable.”

Miss H. L. Pearse, President of the National Union of Trained Nurses, was voted to the Chair. All the Societies affiliated to the Central Committee were represented at the meeting, the majority of the Delegates being present. The Affiliated Societies are:—

The British Medical Association.

The Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council).

The Fever Nurses' Association.

The Scottish Nurses' Association.

The Irish Nurses' Association.

The National Union of Trained Nurses.

The opinion of the meeting, eloquently and forcibly expressed by Delegate after Delegate, was unanimous, that unless the Certificates of Proficiency of Existing and Intermediate Nurses, awarded by the Nurse Training Schools after examination, are recorded in the Qualification Column of the Register of Nurses, published under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the certificated nurses will suffer serious professional and economic damage, as neither the medical profession nor the public will have evidence before them of a nurse's proficiency.

It was decided that a copy of the Resolutions adopted at the meeting should be furnished to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to the public, and to the press.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolutions were agreed:—

RESOLUTION I.

That this meeting has learnt with the greatest indignation that it has been proposed, by members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to publish the State Register of Nurses without recording the certificates of proficiency awarded to trained nurses.

This omission would not only be a most serious professional and economic damage to certificated nurses who are admitted to the Register upon the qualification of their certificates, but would mislead the public and the medical profession as to the professional status and efficiency of such nurses.

RESOLUTION II.

That this meeting has learnt with relief that the Minister of Health has communicated to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the method by which this injustice may be avoided, and it earnestly pleads that the Minister of Health will agree to an addition to the First Schedule in the Rules, to provide for the inclusion of the record of nurses' certificates.

RESOLUTION III.

That a Sub-Committee be appointed to draft a Statement to place the whole case before the Minister of Health, and to explain the serious consequences to the nurses if their certificates are not recorded, in the Qualification Column, upon the State Register, and that the Minister of Health be asked to receive a Deputation from the Central Committee in support of the Statement.

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

UNCLAIMED AWARDS.

We are informed by the War Office that many members of the Nursing Services who are entitled to the Royal Red Cross have not received their decorations. This failure is due to the fact that the War Office is not informed as to the addresses of the recipients in question. Some 238 ladies who were connected with the Nursing Services during the war have not yet received their Royal Red Cross.

We regret that pressure on our space does not permit us to print all these names, but any ladies to whom the award has been made who have not yet received it, are asked to communicate with the Secretary (C.2 Investitures), War Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

A NURSES' BAZAAR.

Owing to the fact that the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, is at present in great distress for want of funds, the Nursing Staff organised a Bazaar, which was opened by the Duchess of Portland on Tuesday. We hope the efforts of the nurses were rewarded, and a handsome sum of money the result. This hospital does splendid work, and could not possibly be spared.

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