

registered she had replied that she hoped she should be preaching to the converted, and that by that time every member of the Leicester League would have sent in her application to be registered. But, if there was any one in the room whose application had not gone up to 12, York Gate, she would like to remind her that it was very imperative in her own interest that she should send it in—

(1) Because only so could she obtain a legal qualification giving her the right to use the protected title of "Registered Nurse."

(2) Because the State Register was the only one which would be accepted in Courts of Law as evidence of a nurse's qualification, and the inclusion of a nurse's name therein was the only legal guarantee she could offer to doctors and patients of her competence.

(3) Because, though she might think her own nursing days were over, and it was unimportant whether she registered or not, she would help her younger colleagues, as well as the sick public, by helping to build up the State Register.

(4) Because, unless she registered before July, 1924, if she wished to take the position of a professional nurse, as distinguished from the amateur or the quack, she *must* register, unless she wished to undergo another three years' training, for in July, 1924, the first State Examination would be held, and all nurses, then and thereafter, would have to give evidence that they had been trained according to the Syllabus prescribed by the General Nursing Council, if they were to rank as Registered Nurses, and all that those words denoted.

(5) Because the Nurses on the State Register would have a degree of self-government never before granted by Parliament to any body of women. It behoved nurses to prove themselves appreciative and worthy of the powers thus bestowed upon them.

Miss Breay then explained that when any new law was passed Parliament was careful to protect the interests of those in practice when the law came into operation, and the standard of admission during the period of grace would be more elastic than when that defined by the General Nursing Council came into force.

Parliament defined broadly in the Act the conditions under which "existing nurses" of good character were eligible for Registration; that is to say those "who were at least three years before the first day of November, 1919, *bond fide* engaged in practice as nurses in attendance on the sick, under conditions which appeared to the Council to be satisfactory for the purposes of this provision, and had adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick."

Many nurses waited with keen interest to see how the General Nursing Council would interpret this section of the Act in the Rules, and, when they were published, found the interpretation satisfactory.

Rule 9 (1) provided two qualifications for the admission of Existing Nurses to the general part of the Register—

(a) A certificate of not less than three years' training in a General Hospital, or Poor Law Infirmary, approved by the Council, and

(b) Not less than one year's training in a General Hospital or Infirmary together with practice as nurses in attendance on the sick for not less than two years before the 1st November, 1919. From these a fee of one guinea was to be required.

"Intermediate Nurses" were those who not being qualified to obtain admission to the Register as "Existing Nurses,"—that was to say before 1st of November, 1919—desired to be admitted to the Register before July, 1924, when the training and examination Rules came into operation. These nurses were required to produce a certificate of not less than three years' training and to pay a fee of £2 2s.

Nurses were ready to comply with these requirements when at the meeting of the General Nursing Council on October 28th the following Resolution was proposed by Miss Cox-Davies :-

"That nurses whose applications for Registration comply with the Rules of the Council be registered simply as 'Existing' or 'Intermediate' Nurses, and that the word 'trained' be used for all alike, and that the word 'certificated' be reserved until such time as the future nurses are admitted to the Register as a result of State Examination."

Miss Breay said that the question of what qualifications should be entered on the Register had been referred to the Registration Committee, which would present a Report at the meeting of the General Nursing Council on the following day. She could not believe that the Council was so little in touch with the feelings of the nurses and so unmindful of its duty to the public, as to adopt such a disastrous proposal as that incorporated in the Resolution she had read. But, if it did, it would not be the end, but the beginning of the matter, for the end of a great injustice was not when it was perpetrated, but when it was rectified. She then briefly outlined why the proposal was unjust to the public, to medical practitioners, and most especially unjust and injurious to certificated nurses.

Could the General Nursing Council really think that nurses were going to pay £1 1s. simply for the assurance that they were "Existing Nurses"? We might not all have very much mentality, but most of us had grasped as much as that without paying £1 1s. for the information; and if it should be seriously proposed to limit the entry in the Register to anything so futile, then the policy and the wisdom of trained nurses would be to withhold supplies until it gave them better value than that for their money.

It might be desirable that the Register should indicate which nurses were "Existing" on November 1st, 1919; which were "Intermediate"; and, in the future, which are "Nurses by Examination," by virtue of holding the State

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