

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE DIPLOMA OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

It has been decided that the Examinations for the Diploma of the Corporation will be recommenced and the next will be held at a date early in December of this year. As will be remembered, the Diploma Examinations were suspended during the war, and, owing to circumstances connected with the Registration Bill and the necessity for finding new headquarters for the Association, the continuance of the Examinations had to be postponed for a longer period than had been expected.

With reference to the decision of the Committee to hold an Examination next December we desire to make clear a point in connection with which there has been considerable misunderstanding in the past. The fact that the Association held Examinations led many nurses to believe that, in order to become Members of the Corporation at all, it was necessary to submit themselves for Examination. This is not the case. The possession of a Certificate from a recognised training school for nurses is sufficient to make a nurse eligible for Membership of the Corporation. The possession of the Diploma is a distinction altogether apart from Membership. A very high standard is required by the Examiners for various reasons. In the first place it is the wish of the Committee that the Diploma of the Royal British Nurses' Association should stand as a mark of high distinction in the Profession of Nursing, and in the second place the very fact that the Examination is intended to lead up to the grant of a Diploma and not a Certificate demands that the standards required by the Examiners shall be high ones. There is a wide difference in meaning between a Diploma and a Certificate. A Diploma means a special honour or privilege conferred in recognition of high attainment in the particular profession in connection with which it is given. A Certificate on the other hand is simply a voucher or testimony that a nurse has received a certain amount of training or, perhaps, convinced the examiners of the body which grants the certificate that she has come up to a certain "dead level" standard.

The Royal British Nurses' Association is the only body of Nurses which is able to grant a Diploma in Nursing, and this Diploma should

prove especially valuable in the future for, while every nurse should see to it that she has her name on the State Register, the fact that she holds the Diploma will advance very greatly her claims to promotion. Several of those who hold it have told us it has helped them in obtaining certain posts of responsibility. Apart from this, the mere fact that one is working up to a certain definite point, that one is preparing oneself for examination, will prove an excellent stimulus for keeping the mind alert and receptive and for providing all sorts of side tracks whereby new knowledge may be attained.

We hope, therefore, to hear from many nurses that they intend to enter for the Examination in December next in order that they may gain the Diploma of the Corporation and the right to wear the very beautiful badge connected with it. The fee for Examination is two guineas, but this, if her references prove satisfactory, also entitles a nurse to have her name on the list of those who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, are fit to become Members of the Corporation. Thereby it follows that, whether the nurse is successful in passing the Examination or otherwise, she may still, if she so desires, become an ordinary Member of the Corporation, without the payment of the usual entrance fee, but simply by paying a Life Membership or Annual Membership subscription as may be most convenient to her.

THE STATE REGISTERS.

Almost daily we receive letters inquiring for the address of the office to which nurses must make application to have their names placed upon the State Register, or for other particulars in connection with this. In order to save our members trouble in this connection, we wish to state that Nurses who desire to have their names on the English Register, should write direct to Miss Riddell, R.R.C., Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 12, York Gate, London, W. Those wishing to Register in Scotland, to the Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh, and those who wish to register in Ireland, to the Registrar, General Nursing Council for Ireland, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

The Royal British Nurses' Association took an active part in promoting State Registration, and

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