

THE  
**BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING**  
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,773.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1922.

Vol. LXVIII

**EDITORIAL.**

**A HUMBLE ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY.**

As we have reported, Major Barnett, to whom the profession very largely owes the Nurses' Registration Act, consented to move in the House of Commons on March 21st:—

"That a Humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying that the Rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, laid before Parliament on the 6th day of March, 1922, in pursuance of Section 3 (4) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, and numbered 9A and 43 (2) respectively, may be annulled."

We had hoped this week to be able to report the result; owing, however, to the exigencies of Parliament, Major Barnett's motion had to be postponed until Wednesday, March 22nd, too late to publish the result in this issue.

Our readers, who keep themselves abreast with nursing politics, are aware that the majority of the General Nursing Council, including the lay and medical members, have drafted two new Rules, calculated in our opinion to disorganise the work of Registration, and to penalise certain members who have had the temerity to oppose their autocratic methods of governing the nurses.

These two Rules, shortly after they were passed, received the approval of the Minister of Health, and without further inquiry were forthwith laid before Parliament. Number 9A provides for an alteration with respect to conditions of admission to the Register, and in our opinion is a distinct breach of faith with the Nursing Councils of Scotland and Ireland, with which the English Council had come to an agreement, with regard to the conditions for reciprocal registration, after prolonged negotiation; and, in the determination of the majority of the members of the English Council to thrust this dangerous Rule—proposed by Dr. Goodall—through Parliament at the earliest possible moment, it ignored the provision of the Act (Section 6(3)), and did not consult with the Nursing Councils of Scotland and Ireland

before altering the system of admission to the Register. We are not surprised, therefore, that the Scottish Nursing Council takes strong exception, not only to the methods pursued by the English Council in ignoring its right to be consulted, but to the proposal to dispense with documentary evidence of a nurse's qualifications.

The disastrous results of Rule 43 (2) to the efficiency of State Registration and standards of Nursing Education have already been amply emphasised by the results of the elections by the General Nursing Council on March 17th.

As usual in the Nursing World, there is a strong diversity of opinion in connection with these two Rules. The laity, doctors, and matrons are in favour of the casual compilation of the State Register upon hearsay, and the nurses' representatives demand a system of scrutiny and thoroughness which will make the compilation of a correct Register possible.

The official attitude in the office, which has resented the thorough system of scrutiny and inspection of certificates which the new Rule is calculated to avoid, is, in our opinion, indefensible, and we have no hesitation in stating that the Nursing Profession should have something to say when called upon to pay anything from £1,000 upwards for the printing of their Register.

Whether or no Major Barnett, in his generous advocacy of justice to nurses, will persuade Parliament to petition His Majesty to annul these two pernicious Rules, has not transpired as we go to press; but he has the admiration and gratitude of genuine State Registrationists for his efforts.

Moreover, the spirit which inspires those nurses who are determined to oppose stupid and tyrannical methods of Government by the General Nursing Council is what counts. That they have had the courage to appeal through Parliament to the King in Council is proof positive that whatever attempts are made to suppress their sense of professional responsibility will ultimately meet with the ignominy they deserve.

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