

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL AND SYSTEMS OF REGISTRATION.

The dangerously inefficient system of Registration in England and Wales by which the General Nursing Council have authorised a salaried official to compile our Statutory Register, prompted the President of the R.N.P.C. to ask for information as to their systems from the Registrars of the Scottish and Irish Nursing Councils, to which she has received courteous replies.

The Registrar of the Scottish Council writes:—
“ I have to inform you that my Council require the production of (1) an Applicant's original Training Certificate, or (2) a copy of the same certified as correct by a Minister of Religion, Registered Medical Practitioner, or other responsible person, subject, in the latter alternative, to my being able to have the facts in the copy Certificate verified by reference to the Hospital Authorities.”

The Registrar of the Irish Council writes:—
“ The evidence required by the General Nursing Council for Ireland, when applicants desire registration, is, as a rule, the original Certificate of hospital training. Sometimes, however, applicants find it difficult to forward the original Certificates, or are afraid to trust them in the post. In such cases, I require them to send me a copy of the original authenticated by a doctor or a clergyman.”

It will be seen that it remains for the English Nursing Council to attempt to ruin our Register by accepting entrants second hand without the production of direct documentary evidence of training to the Council. Whether this system of mischievous muddle emanated from the brain of the Registrar or of Dr. Goodall, who thrust Rule 9A upon us—or from the tools of the College of Nursing, Ltd.—remains to be proved. Anyway, the nursing profession, which will have to pay in cash for the colossal ignorance of our Council, and in honour for the breach of faith with the Scottish and Irish Councils, is not going to foot the bill without protest.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, held on March 31st, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH:

“ That this Union of Independent Nurses, outside the control of Employers, wishes to express to the Minister of Health its indignation that he should have secretly agreed with a section of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to sign the new Rules 9 (A) and 43 (2). They consider such methods entirely unconstitutional, and wish to point out that

the majority of the Matrons on the General Nursing Council are members of the College of Nursing (Limited), a Society which stands isolated and alone with regard to the policy of altering these Rules, for the Matrons' Association is a body just lately formed, consisting mostly of members of the College of Nursing (Limited); all other independent Nursing Societies having combined against it.

“ The members of the Free Nurses' Organisations, which compose the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses (mentioned in the Schedule of the Act), are holding a meeting on April 8th to receive an official statement on the whole question. This Central Committee, whose constituent societies are the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Committee, the Fever Nurses' Association, and the National Union of Trained Nurses, is also supported in its policy by the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, the National Asylum Workers' Union, and the Nursing Section of the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union. The action of the Minister in this matter has done much to impair the confidence of Nurses in the impartiality of the Ministry of Health.

“ In spite of the fact that the Minister deprecates the suggestion that Matrons on the Council represent the interests of the Employers, the fact that they engage and practically discharge all those under their jurisdiction, gives them an employer's powers without his responsibilities, and practically the same status as a foreman or a forewoman in industry.”

TO THE MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:

“ That this Union of Free Members, whose policy cannot be controlled by those representing the Employers' interests, passes a vote of censure upon the Majority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for their action in turning out of the Registration Committee a Nurse who is an expert in professional affairs, and substituting in her place a lady who can have no personal knowledge of the qualifications necessary. The Working Nurses most strongly object to be governed by the laity, especially as there are members of their own profession more fitted for the task.

“ They also most strongly object to pay the first-class fare and expenses of a lady of title from Bath in order that she may sit on the Education and Examination Committee in place of the only Matron, who is a Fever expert, on the Council, and who has been turned off this Committee.”

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the London Branch will be held (by kind permission of Miss Marsters) at 117, Sutherland Avenue, Maida Vale, W.9 (Warwick Avenue Station, or Bus No. 6), on Friday, May 5th, at 7.30 p.m.

Miss Pye has kindly consented to give an address on Child Welfare Work in Austria.

R.S.V.P. to the Secretary, N.U.T.N., 38-9, Parliament Street, Whitehall, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held at 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.1 (by kind permission of Miss Carson), on Saturday May 6th, at 2.30 p.m.

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