

PUBLICITY AND THE PROFESSION OF NURSING.

Time and Tide is still giving liberal space to discussion under the heading of "Nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd." Last week "Eva G. Reid," a member, states that she is "most indignant" at the unfair amount of space given to those in opposition to the College. "Letter after letter have you put in from them, and all the other side has got is two," and she makes the statement that "the Royal College of Nursing is a very powerful body and the other side is jealous because the College has got all the education to do."

This lady, as a member, should know that the prefix "Royal" is not permissible in connection with the College of Nursing, Ltd., and that the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, provides that it is the prerogative of the General Nursing Council set up by the Act to define the educational curriculum for the trained nurses of the future before Registration by the State, and that it is high time the "College" ceased meddling with work which Parliament has decreed shall be carried out by another body.

Lord Knutsford also addresses *Time and Tide* with his usual inaccuracy. He keeps repeating a statement that "Registration is worth nothing," but "to obtain this valueless registration a nurse has to pay £2 2s. and submit herself to another examination."

We have long ceased to take Lord Knutsford seriously on the subject of registration, but he need not tell tarradiddles. Nurses trained before November, 1919, only pay £1 rs., and no nurse has until 1924 to submit to a State Examination. No doubt they will eagerly avail themselves of the privilege when the time comes. In the meantime, we believe, non-resident London Hospital nurses are registering in very satisfactory numbers, now that certificates are not to be confiscated—an unjust proposal which was a shattering blow to the prestige of the G.N.C. until made impossible by a clearly defined rule.

Time and Tide, under the heading of "Publicity and the Nursing Profession," refutes Miss Eva G. Reid's accusation that the Editor has not dealt fairly with the correspondence on this topic:—

"We publish," it states, "to-day a letter complaining that we have not parcelled out fairly the space in our correspondence columns as between the College of Nursing, Limited, and their opponents, that whilst we have printed many letters from the opponents of the College we have printed only two from the College side. Our correspondent is perfectly right as to the facts, but she is wrong in imputing to us any unfairness in the matter. Our correspondence columns are equally open to letters from either side, and we have printed every letter on this subject received for publication. The curious thing about the correspondence has been that whilst on the anti-College of Nursing side practically every letter received has been for publication; on the College of Nursing side the majority of letters received have been either completely anonymous (and no paper publishes letters whose writers fail to give their names and addresses to the Editor as a proof of good faith)

or when they have been signed have been marked 'not for publication.'

"It seems clear that whilst the adherents of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Matrons' Council, the Professional Union of Trained Nurses and the National Union of Trained Nurses desire that as much publicity as may be possible should be thrown upon the affairs of the nursing profession, the adherents of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and of the Association of Hospital Matrons, consider that publicity is in this case a mistake. It would be interesting to know why."

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

A cheque for £500 has been presented to the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital for Women, Melbourne, as a contribution from the £719 collected for Princess Mary's Gift Fund. The money, by Princess Mary's wish, will be devoted to the endowment of a cot. The balance represents the cost of the gold and black opal frame which is the Victorians' personal gift to the Princess.

An appeal for £50,000 is being made on behalf of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham Common. A fancy fair will be held in the grounds on June 7th.

We greatly sympathise with the Sisters at the Hospital of the Holy Ghost at Rome, where a disastrous fire has occurred, resulting in the death of nineteen patients, and, it is feared, several nurses. Many patients were carried to shelters in the hospital ground or to neighbouring institutions. It is reported that the fire was caused by a torch left burning in the pantry.

We are glad to note that St. Pancras Borough Council has decided that the position of assistant medical officer, rendered vacant by the dismissal of Dr. Gladys Smith on her marriage, should be open to doctors of either sex.

Her Majesty's Hospital, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1, has changed its address to "Penwin," Spicer Road, Exeter.

By 10 votes to six the salary of the head nurse of Dungannon Union Hospital was increased from £73 to £120 a year. Owing to the amalgamation with Cookstown Union there are now 126 beds as against 60.

COMING EVENTS.

May 27th.—Annual General Meeting, Fever Nurses' Association, City Hospital, Bradford. 3 p.m.

May 27th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Lecture on the "Psychology of Colour," by Mr. Norton. 4.30 p.m.

June 9th.—Meeting Matrons' Council, Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 3 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)