

We note that the *Nursing Mirror* attributes a lengthy speech to Miss Steele—which she never made—in reporting the discussion on the prescribed scheme for the Constitution of the new Council at the recent meeting of the General Nursing Council. Miss Steele said half-a-dozen words in support of making Matrons eligible for the five seats secured to nurses. As approved, the scheme secures six seats to past or present Matrons of general hospitals or infirmaries, five seats to nurses who are not and have not been Matrons, two seats to male nurses, and leaves three seats to Matrons or nurses of special hospitals as the electorate prefers.

Personally, upon reconsideration, we believe the plan adopted by the Scottish Council much the most democratic and sensible. Power is given to the whole body of Registered Nurses to elect whom they choose from the candidates nominated. Thus the nurses' representatives represent the whole profession, and not sections of it, with axes to grind, as at present. We fear, however, it is now too late to adopt this liberal plan.

THE G.N.C. ELECTION.

The managers of the College of Nursing, Ltd., are out to stampede the election of the representatives of the Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council, for which purpose Rule 9 (A) was drafted outside the Council, giving preferential treatment to members of the College, and by the omission of the word "certified" actually permitting them to register upon uncertified certificates, whilst all other applicants are compelled to furnish either the original or a certified copy of their certificates.

We do not blame the rank and file of the members for this gross unfairness, but the Executive officers who projected it. In pursuance of this aim the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer, will take the chair at a meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on October 21st, to consider a list of candidates which is being put forward by the College, the Association of Hospital Matrons, and the Poor Law Matrons' Association.

We have always stated that the governors of the leading anti-registration hospitals such as St. Thomas's and the London would not object to State Registration of Nurses so long as they could control it. This they hope to do through the College caucus and its millionaire supporters.

We are glad to learn that independent candidates will come forward for election, and these

candidates will appeal to the electorate as consistent registrationists who demand that their Statutory Council shall act independently of outside influence, and encourage professional self-government for registered nurses.

NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT PROVIDES FOR "PRESCRIBED TRAINING" BEFORE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION.

A number of correspondents ask why the provisions of their Act, which make "prescribed training" obligatory, are to be ignored, and draw attention to Section 3 (2) (a and b) of the Act referring to Rules. This Section provides that:—

Rules for future nurses under this Section shall contain provisions:—

(a) Requiring as a condition of the admission of any person to the Register that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and shall possess the prescribed experience, in the nursing of the sick; and

(b) Requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out either in an institution approved by the Council in that behalf, or in the service of the Admiralty, the Army Council, or the Air Council.

There is no ambiguity about these clauses.

(1) Prescribed training must be defined.

(2) Prescribed experience must be tested by examination as provided in Subsection (c) 3 (1).

Rules under this Section must be approved by the Minister of Health.

The whole educational benefit of the Act is being rendered null and void by the Minister failing to sign the Syllabus of General Training unanimously approved by the General Nursing Council. If he does not approve of it, the Council should be informed in what particular he objects to it, so that objections can be considered by the Council.

To argue that "prescribed training" is not necessary is contrary to the provisions of the Act.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

In connection with the election of members of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, the voting papers for which are to be sent out on November 1st, the Council desire it to be known that while their first Register cannot be published until after December 31st, 1922, a List of the Nurses registered to 6th inst. is now available, on application to the Registrar, at a published price of £1 1s.

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