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## EDITORIAL.

### INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

The fine group of women who are standing as Independent Candidates in the Election for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales are well acquainted with the questions involved in the organisation of Trained Nursing by the State, through which they hope to obtain the standardisation of Nursing Education, and better economic conditions for nurses, for they supported and worked for the movement for State Registration of Nurses, which has now received the approval of Parliament, when only a minority urged this reform, now acknowledged to be of far-reaching importance and great public utility.

We feel sure that the Nursing Profession will have confidence in supporting the candidature of women of the type of those standing as the Independent group, both because of their consistent adherence to principles, their personal characteristics, and their vital force.

There is no indecision in this coterie; the weight of their influence is always to be found on the side of right, and their votes are cast in the best interests of the nurses, regardless of the personal issue. We may take pride in being represented by these stalwarts, who, over and over again, in many a political and economic battle, have proved their mettle.

### THE SECRECY OF THE BALLOT.

We are frequently and anxiously asked whether the ballot in the forthcoming election of members to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will be secret, and undoubtedly many nurses fear that if they do not vote according to the wishes of their superiors it will be prejudicial to their interests. This fear has also been expressed in regard to Parliamentary elections, and the contention that such elections should be secret has been recognised by Parliament as justifi-

able. In our own election although the vote, as in the election for the General Medical Council, is a postal one, precautions have been taken that it shall be strictly secret, and Registered Nurses can therefore record their votes as their consciences dictate without fear of after consequences.

### OUR ELECTION FUND.

Because certain representative nurses have decided to accept nomination for election to the General Nursing Council as independent candidates, and not as the nominees of any nurses' organisation, we feel sure the profession will realise that the whole cost of contesting the election should not fall upon the individual candidates. We therefore invite our readers to give what financial support they can towards a Fund to help to cover the necessary and substantial expenses.

The great generosity of those who bore the burden and heat of the day in obtaining the Nurses' Registration Acts in the past, emboldens us to rely upon their sense of professional responsibility at the present time. Wonders can be done with modest donations carefully conserved and administered, and we hope that many such donations will be contributed within the next week or two. Miss M. Breay, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, will be glad to receive and acknowledge such donations.

Further, let us help the candidature of our chosen candidates not only with our votes and our financial support, but with personal service. Each elector can influence others, and we hope that everyone will realise her responsibilities and obligations, and leave no stone unturned to "faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons" to serve on our General Nursing Council for the next five years. It is the most imperative need of the profession at the present time.

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