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EDITORIAL.

IS A TRAINED NURSE A DOMESTIC SERVANT?

COLLAPSE OF APPEAL OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

We are officially informed that the Appeal of the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital that their senior Staff Nurse should have been exempted from unemployment insurance before July, 1922, because she is a domestic servant, as she supervises the cleanliness of wards and the making of beds, has been withdrawn, and was therefore not considered in the High Courts on Wednesday.

Better late than never.

And once more the profession of Nursing has to thank the independent organisations of nurses for averting a very grave injury to its professional status.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, Royal British Nurses' Association; Miss M. F. Rimmer, National Union of Trained Nurses; and Miss E. Maude MacCallum, Professional Union of Trained Nurses, were instructed by their organisations to intervene against the Appeal of St. Thomas's Hospital, and to prove that since the Nursing Profession has been granted legal status by Act of Parliament it is a legally constituted profession, on a similar basis to that of medicine.

What have the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., done to maintain the status of their profession in this connection? So far as we know they have taken no concerted action, and although we have received many letters of indignant protest from nurses we have no evidence before us that any of the writers are members of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Apparently, as usual, its members are content to allow their male Executive Officers to take

action upon a question affecting their professional and economic condition.

We grant that the College Council, which is presumably its Governing Body, was placed in an exceedingly invidious position in this matter from Sir Arthur Stanley holding the dual position of Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, which proves our contention, once more, that until the nurses govern their own Associations, free of lay control, they will continually find their interests ignored when they do not coincide with the economic advantage of their employers.

WHY RULE 9 (A) WAS THRUST THROUGH PARLIAMENT.

We have always maintained that Dr. Goodall's Rule 9 (A)—which was *ultra vires* (because the Scottish Council had not agreed with it) when thrust through Parliament by Sir Alfred Mond, late Minister of Health—was designed to pack the Council at the forthcoming Election of Direct Representatives to the General Nursing Council of England and Wales, and we hope that the Nursing Profession will realise how it is fulfilling the object of its promoters.

Responsibility in connection with the Statutory Register should be entrusted to the officials of the Council, but Rule 9 (A) provides that this responsibility shall be shared, quite unconstitutionally, with the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

We understand that a meeting of the College Council was held at the Cowdray Club, and its nominees for the General Nursing Council decided upon. The nominated candidates were then advised to ask their colleagues for support, and to write to the Secretary of the College—not to the Registrar of the General Nursing Council—for the names of Registered Nurses in, or trained at, the institutions at which they are Matrons, and further that the Matrons should appeal to these nurses to support College candidates, Rule 9 (A) having given the College Secretary knowledge

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