

THE ELECTION TO THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE VOTERS' CATECHISM.

The Voters' Catechism is "a form of instruction by means of question and answer," for the many nurses who, within the last few weeks, have submitted questions to us for solution.

Question.—When does the Election of Direct Representatives of nurses to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales take place?

Answer.—On December 8th.

Question.—How do I vote? Do I have to attend at the office of the G.N.C., 12, York Gate, N.W.?

Answer.—No, the voting is by postal ballot.

Question.—How do I get the voting paper?

Answer.—It will be sent to you, at your registered address, by December 1st, from the office of the General Nursing Council.

Question.—What do I do then?

Answer.—Study the Instructions very carefully and place a cross in the place indicated against the names of the candidates for whom you desire to vote. If you do not follow the Instructions exactly you may spoil the paper and lose your vote.

Question.—How many votes do I have?

Answer.—(1) If you are on the General Register you have eleven votes—one for each of the eleven candidates. You will have the list of all the candidates who have been nominated, and it is certain there will be more than eleven. You need not use all your votes if you do not want to; but you may vote for any number of candidates up to eleven. You must not give more than one vote to any candidate.

2. If you are a Registered Male Nurse you have one vote for the Male Nurse candidate. Similarly, if you are a Registered Fever Nurse you have one vote for the Fever Nurse Candidate.

Also the Registered Sick Children's Nurses are entitled to vote for one representative.

Question.—What happens if only one candidate is nominated for a vacancy?

3. *Answer.*—If only one candidate is nominated then there is no contested election. At present, we believe, no candidate has been nominated to represent Fever Nurses except the Independent Candidate (Miss S. A. Villiers), and no candidate to represent the Male Nurses except Mr. F. W. Stratton. If no further nominations are received by the Returning Officer for these places before November 24th, then these candidates will be returned without a contest.

4. The Registered Mental Nurses are entitled to two representatives—one a male and one a female mental nurse.

Question.—Must I consult my Matron about the paper, or hand it to her when I have filled it in?

Answer.—No, the ballot is secret. You need consult no one unless you wish, and should post the balloting paper to the Returning Officer at 12, York Gate, N.W., following the directions

given you exactly. Matrons should studiously avoid influencing their subordinates how to vote. It savours of coercion.

Question.—How can I know who are standing for election before I get my balloting paper, and how can I learn what their qualifications and records are?

Answer.—Study THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for November 11th, 18th, and 25th, and December 2nd.

MISS VILLIERS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE.

Miss Susan A. Villiers has been placed in a somewhat anomalous position, by the action of the College of Nursing, Ltd., of which she is not a member, in having placed her name in its list of candidates for election to the General Nursing Council without her permission. That she is standing as an Independent Candidate—nominated by six colleagues, but by no Nurses' Organisation—Miss Villiers made quite clear in her address to constituents at the Meeting at 11, Chandos Street, W., on November 2nd.

We learn that the College has invited Miss Villiers to fill in its Nomination Paper, and that this she has refused to do.

Miss Villiers has many friends in the nursing world—who belong to various nurses' organisations—and she will, of course, be gratified if, knowing her record of service on the General Nursing Council, they will support her candidature by their votes, as representative of the special educational and economic needs of Fever Nurses, in which she has for so many years been personally interested.

THE LAY-EDITED NURSING PRESS RUNS AMUCK.

Our attention has been called to a tissue of inaccurate statements in the *Nursing Mirror* of November 4th, in purporting to report Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's speech at the Meeting at 11, Chandos Street, on November 2nd—presumably supplied by a member of the audience.

Mrs. Fenwick's solicitor has been communicated with on the matter, the proprietors of this partizan anti-registration publication having systematically misrepresented her speeches for the past thirty years. Apparently the lesson of libelling nurses (out of whose profession every one attached to this non-professional paper makes a living) has not been taken to heart.

It was only in 1920 that in the High Courts of Justice the proprietors and printers of the *Nursing Mirror* were compelled to withdraw a malicious libel on Miss Maude MacCallum, make her an abject public apology in Court, and pay her £500 damages for an attempt to ruin her professionally.

A Mrs. Wilcox is presumed to be the lay editor of the *Nursing Mirror*, and we advise her to be careful how she handles reports of speeches from persons evidently inspired by personal animus—who have not the courage to appear at the press table!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)