

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 1,809.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1922.

Vol. LXIX

EDITORIAL.

THE STATE REGISTER IN DANGER.

Apparently the London Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is not even satisfied with the notorious Rule 9 (A), which provides easy access for members to the State Register. At a meeting recently held at the College of Ambulance Miss Herbert again advocated no standard of training for State Registration, not even the one year now in force for Existing and Intermediate Nurses, which would give every village "Nurse Midwife" and every V.A.D. the right to ruin the status of our Register, and render State Registration not only a dangerous farce, so far as the public is concerned, but a most dastardly betrayal of the professional and economic interests of Existing and Intermediate Nurses, who have already paid upwards of £15,000 for the privilege of Registration. Then Miss Rosalind Paget, member of the Central Midwives' Board, proposed to put on strong pressure so that everybody who belonged to the College of Nursing, Ltd., should belong to the First Register. There is absolutely nothing to prevent members of the College with one year's training and upwards from being placed on the State Register if they choose to apply and if their credentials are good. Nothing excepting apathy and indifference. But the truth is that owing to not having had any regular training certain prominent persons connected with the College are not eligible under the one year's rule, so hey presto! sweep away every safeguard, so that *amour propre* may be appeased! The following resolution to effect this injustice was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting, feeling that the regulations admitting existing and intermediate nurses to the State Register should be amended, urges the Council of the College of Nursing, representing 22,000 nurses, to approach the Minister of Health with a view to obtaining the reconsideration of such regulations."

We wonder how many of the provincial trained members of the College have been consulted. None, so far as we have heard. But we do know hundreds of College nurses who would oppose most strenuously the removal of the one year's standard of training, which would enable V.A.D.s and village "Nurse Midwives" to flood the State Register and render it absolutely useless as a protection to the sick public. But unless the Local Centres wake up they will find the London Centre attempting in their name to push, through social influence, this most damaging policy.

A second resolution was proposed by Miss Bremner (a Candidate for election on the General Nursing Council) that the General Nursing Council should be approached with a request "that they should delay the publication of the First Register."

Thousands of nurses have paid for the privilege of their names appearing in the First Register, which, according to the Rules, was to have been published "as soon after the 1st July as possible." It is now five months overdue, and these thousands of nurses have been requested to pay their retention fee of 2s. 6d. for 1922, which is supplying the Council with a very substantial income, although the Registered Nurses have not yet received the professional benefit for which they have paid!

And now it is proposed that they are to be still further penalised for quite personal reasons by members of the College Council.

We have a new Minister of Health—reported to be an honest man. We advise Registered Nurses to invite him to listen to their opinions before flouting the Nurses Registration Act and its Statutory Rules, as his predecessor did, at the dictation of interested individuals, whether members of the College Council or not. Anyway, unless they are prepared to open the Register to V.A.D.s and village "Nurse Midwives," members of the College should not by their votes elect on to the General Nursing Council women who are

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