

ADDRESS OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

TO THE

ELECTORS OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

For the first time in history the Nurses on the Register formed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales have the opportunity to elect a majority of those who are to form the Governing Body of their own profession.

The first General Nursing Council for England and Wales, which is a body wholly nominated by the Minister of Health, ceases to exist after December 23rd, 1922.

It will be succeeded by the new Council of 25 persons, of whom 16 will be Registered Nurses, elected by the votes of the nurses already enrolled on the Register; 11 by the nurses enrolled on the General Part of the Register; and 5 by the Nurses on the Supplementary Parts of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses, Fever Nurses, Mental Nurses (2), and Male Nurses respectively.

THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A STATUTORY COUNCIL.

It is of primary and vital importance that the new Council, so far as the nurse-electors can make it, should be free of party or sectional aims, free to come to its own independent judgment of the interests of Registered Nurses, and not in bondage to any outside organisation. It would be a deplorable set-back to the Nursing Profession if, through the neglect of many to register who ought to be on the Register, or the neglect of those on the Register to vote, any number should be returned to the Council whose opinions can be dictated by an outside organisation.

At the same time, the Council should fairly represent the interests of all sections of nurses, not alone of the General Hospital Trained Nurse, but also of the Male Nurse, the Mental Nurse, the Sick Children's Nurse, the Fever Nurse, as well as the important sections of municipal nurses and private nurses.

An independent Council, fairly representing all these branches of Nursing, could hardly fail to serve the best interests of the Nursing Profession.

The Independent Candidates, therefore, appeal to you to set aside mere personal predilections, and to consider only whether the following Candidates who now appeal for your votes will best represent your interests on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. If you think they will,

WILL YOU BY YOUR VOTES HELP TO RETURN THEM?

RECORD OF THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

The Group of Independent Candidates who offer themselves for election are—

TO REPRESENT NURSES IN THE GENERAL PART OF THE REGISTER.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, standing as the past Matron of a Metropolitan

Training School, formerly Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Promoter of the movement for the Organisation of Nursing Education by the State, and of State Registration of Nurses. Drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill in 1904, and worked consistently for a Nurses' Registration Act until a Government measure was passed, December, 1919. Advocate of the Self-Government of the Nursing Profession by Registered Nurses, and deeply interested in social evolution in relation to health. Hon. Nurse Secretary, Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. Founder and Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses, London, 1899.

Miss Mildred Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., formerly Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, London. Standing as the past Matron of a Metropolitan General Hospital. A leader of many years' standing, and a consistent supporter, of the movement for the Higher Education and State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Miss Helen L. Pearse, standing as a past Matron of a Provincial Hospital (the North Staffordshire Infirmary). Worked loyally ever since certification by St. Bartholomew's Hospital to obtain a Nurses' Registration Act. Has been Matron of the Great (Royal) Northern Hospital, London, N., and since 1907 Superintendent of London County Council School Nurses, now numbering about 300. Is an expert in the care of the health of the nation's children. Deeply interested in the work of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Jessie F. Ballantyne, A.R.R.C., Matron of the Fulham Infirmary, Hammersmith. Standing as the Matron of a Metropolitan Poor-Law Infirmary. A staunch registrationist, deeply interested in the honourable recognition of nursing in State hospitals, and equality of opportunity and status for Poor Law Nurses with their colleagues trained in voluntary hospitals.

Miss Susan M. Marsters, Superintendent of the Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association, standing as District Nursing or Public Health Candidate. Consistent supporter of State Registration as a means to elevate District Nursing, and for the furtherance of all questions of National Health.

Miss Alice Cattell, Member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Standing as the Private Nurses' representative. Holds a three years' certificate of training from St. George's Hospital, London, and has many years of successful independent private nursing practice to her credit. Miss Cattell is specially interested in the provision of the State Uniform and Badge, a privilege granted to Registered Nurses under the Nurses' Registration Act, which has been constantly deferred by the present Council.

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