

the most dangerous position in which an independent profession, largely composed of women, can be placed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE.

Under correspondence, no doubt the College Council, now that it holds the balance of power on the G.N.C., intends to enforce its demands as to depreciating the standard for registration on the General Part of the Register.

5. STATEMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER.

The questions of importance in this connection are (1) Who is going to pay the hundreds of pounds wasted by the mismanagement of the first Election? and (2) has the Returning Officer the right to disqualify any number of ballot papers without the verification of the assessors and candidates for election?

6. REPORT ON SYSTEM.

We presume a Report will be forthcoming, as to (1) the cost per day of Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.'s Report on System (or rather on lack of system) in the office, and (2) the cost of the 200 pamphlets published on this matter, when some 30 cyclostyled copies of the Report, for the use of the Council, would have sufficed.

Minutes of the Last Meeting.

On February 6th, 1923, we received a copy of the Minutes of the Council Meeting, held on December 15th, 1922—inexcusable procrastination, typical of the management, which necessitated the enquiry by a business firm into the "System" in vogue at Headquarters. We note that our "Statement" under "Other Business" has been entirely suppressed, but, doubtless, the unread Minutes will be passed "as correct," on the 16th inst. What we wanted to know, and what hundreds of "Intermediate" women nurses want to know is—Who eliminated the words, "after the term of grace," from the following Rule proposed by us on February 2nd, 1921, and unanimously agreed to by the Council?

"That the fee for Registration by the Council for Intermediate Nurses after the term of grace be £2 2s."

By omitting the words alluded to "Intermediate" women nurses holding three years' certificates of training have been compelled to pay £2 2s. for registration since July, 1921, whilst semi-trained Existing nurses have only paid £1 1s. The £2 2s. fee, according to the Rule agreed upon by the Council, should not have come into force until July, 1923, at the termination of the two years' grace—when Existing nurses are no longer eligible as such for registration.

No reply to our enquiries was forthcoming at the last Council Meeting, but it is incumbent upon the Registrar, Miss M. S. Riddell, to explain this matter, especially as Male Nurses have been accepted on preferential terms by the Chairman of the Registration Committee without the consent of the Council. Some person eliminated the words, "after the term of grace." As we now learn, it was not the Minister of Health. "Intermediate" nurses have a right to know who has penalised them for 18 months. To "suppress"

all reference to our statement in the Minutes is so typical of G.N.C. tactics that it causes us no surprise.

Registered Nurses' Rights under the Act.

We hope the Independent Registered members of the new Council will insist upon Registered Nurses enjoying the following Rights:—

(1) A "prescribed training and prescribed experience in the nursing of the Sick." Section 3. (2) (a) This includes a "prescribed" Syllabus. The reason this "right" is being postponed in the case of "General" Nurses is that certain autocratic Governors of Voluntary Hospitals, and certain Poor Law Guardians, are attempting, with the help of the Ministry, to override the "right" of probationers to "prescribed" standards of education granted to them by Parliament. In the past, probationers were entirely at the mercy of these autocrats, and if possible they are still to be taught by courtesy and not by contract.

(2) The publication of the State Register, due, according to the Statutory Rules, in July, 1922.

(3) A protected Uniform and Badge. Section 3 (1) (g) of the Act.

(4) Titular letters after names.

E. C. F.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

The Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland draws the attention of Nurses to the fact that, under the provision of the Statutory Rules, the two years' term of grace for registration of Existing Nurses terminates on July 29th, 1923.

Like their English compatriots, Scottish nurses have been very apathetic in availing themselves of State Registration, and the reason given to us is the same, *i.e.*, "We do not care to place our names on a Register with semi-trained nurses; we hoped the Act would have upheld the three years' certificate." Parliament never recognises professional efficiency, but as the Acts make it possible to build up standards in the future, our advice to Scottish nurses is to secure *legal status* by registration, and help to insist on high standards of teaching and efficiency in the future.

THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

NOTICE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses will be held at the Plane Tree Restaurant, 106, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1, on Friday, April 6th, at 5.30 p.m.

No Nomination Papers will be sent out, but notice is hereby given that all nominations duly proposed and seconded according to the Rules, must be received at the Office *not later than* noon of Friday, February 23rd, 1923.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary.

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